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Historic apology

Prime minister says 'sorry' for abuse in residential schools

Three little words: "We are sorry."

But these were history-making words yesterday, uttered in a hushed House of Commons by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples for their suffering in the once obligatory residential school system.

great harm

» In his speech, Harper pointed out the infamous goal of the residential schools was "to kill the Indian in the child." Instead, Harper said: "Today, we recognize that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm and has no place in our country."

As he spoke, school survivors wept openly in the public galleries, their tears a tribute to the tears of every mother who cried for a child forcibly taken from her over generations.

A man in the gallery held a lone eagle feather aloft for more than an hour, throughout the apology and subsequent speeches by opposition and Aboriginal leaders.

The day began with the lighting of a sacred fire on an island in the Ottawa River in view of the Parliament Buildings where native peoples were legislated as "inferior" in 1874 and, in 1884, mandated by law to send their children away to residential schools.

It wound down after the apology with drumming and the ritual cleansing of the "smudging" ceremony in another part of Centre Bloc.

"These are happy tears," said Holly Danyluk, a James Bay Cree.

Harper called the schools "a sad chapter in our history."

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine was close to tears when he responded to Harper's speech. A survivor of sexual abuse in the residential school system, he was lauded for his courage when he went public with his story in the early 1990s.

"The memories of residential schools sometimes ..." he began, pausing to regain his composure, "cuts like a knife at our souls.

"This day will help us to put that pain behind us."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine, with headdress, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami president Mary Simon, centre, looks on. Harper offered an official apology for more than a century of abuse and cultural loss involving Aboriginal residential schools.

more coverage

» For more on the government's official apology, see page 6.

Huge Afghan hash bust

Afghan counternarcotics officials said yesterday they uncovered 236 tonnes of hashish hidden in two-metre-deep trenches in the southern province of Kandahar in what one U.S. official said appears to be the world's biggest drug bust.

The hashish, found Monday, was worth more than $400 million and would have netted the Taliban about $14 million in profits, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

The hashish weighed as much as 30 double-decker London buses, ISAF said. The drug was burned on site. Hashish is a concentrated form of marijuana. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. price gap still in effect

Eight months after the Canadian dollar attained parity with the U.S. dollar for the first time in decades, there's still a big gap between what stores on different sides of the border charge for comparable products.

A Bank of Montreal survey of 17 goods indicates price differences have narrowed somewhat in the year since its previous comparison but Canadians are still paying 18 per cent more than shoppers in the U.S. for everything from coffee to cars. When the list was broadened beyond products that were surveyed last year, the 18 per cent gap still remained, according to the study released yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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toronto

Little Geeks, a Toronto-based charity, will hand out 100 computers to needy kids in the city today. Founder and tech expert Andy Walker said the goal is to distribute 1,000 by the end of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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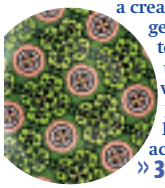

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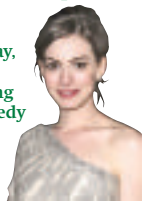
Pregnant Jamie Lynn Spears has reportedly called off wedding with baby's dad Casey. » 50

in tomorrow's metro

movies
Metro catches up with Anne Hathaway, star of upcoming spy comedy Get Smart.



Trash to U.S. by train

Vaughan company claims it's first to use method

A waste-management firm in Vaughan has become the first in the country to haul industrial garbage by rail instead of truck, company officials said yesterday.

First Waste Transload Inc. is loading dry waste into specially built railroad containers at a CN Rail site near Jane Street and Highway 7, for disposal in Ohio and Michigan.

Toronto's household garbage — bound instead for the Green Lane landfill near London — could be next, company chairman Joel Wagman said in an interview, although a CN Rail spokesperson later dismissed the notion.

"We will shortly be approaching the City of Toronto and other GTA communities to ship their municipal waste by rail within the next few months," Wagman said following a reception for investors.

Hauling waste in rail cars instead of trucks cuts costs, reduces highway traffic, eases border congestion and drastically cuts carbon-dioxide emissions, company officials said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

youths shot

Basketball game scene of shooting

CRIME Gunshot victims were whisked away to hospital just as paramedics and police were converging on the crime scene at a Regent Park basketball game, witnesses say.

As many as six shots were fired in the courtyard about 4:20 p.m. Shortly after 4:30 p.m., police were called to St. Michael's Hospital, where two youths with gunshot wounds arrived separately.

"The one victim is going through life-saving surgery and the homicide squad is monitoring the situation," said Insp. Dave Saunders.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Protest Hospital phasing out staff

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Personal service workers, represented by CUPE 79, rally yesterday against a Bridgeport Hospital announcement that they would be phasing out 200 personal service workers and replacing them with registered practical nurses over the next 18 months. The hospital is aiming to fill 225 RPN positions.

Many free zoo passes handed out

Glenn De Baeremaeker handed out more than 600 free passes to the Toronto zoo last year, more than twice as many as any other city councillor, and proudly defends the practice.

"I use them to promote the zoo. I put them in envelopes of four and give them out as door prizes at local community events," he said, adding he'd like to see even more passes given away.

An access to information request by the Toronto Star found De Baeremaeker topped the 2007 list of pass requesters at 625. He was followed by the chair of the zoo board, Coun. Raymond Cho at 285., Coun. Mark Grimes at 174, and Coun. Michael Thompson at 120.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

revenue

» Taking into account the cost of these passes, it translates into more than $22,000 in revenue loss for the zoo — presuming those people would have attended anyway.

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TTC may cut adult tickets

The TTC has proposed the elimination of adult tickets by the end of September in order to combat increasingly effective counterfeiters.

The transit authority announced, at the same time, that one of its own ticket collectors was arrested Tuesday night for selling counterfeit tickets from her booth at Wilson and Ossington stations.

Under the proposal, revealed yesterday afternoon, adult tickets would no longer be accepted as of Sept. 28. In mid-September, people who had already purchased adult tickets could exchange them for tokens at the Yonge-Bloor subway station or at TTC headquarters at Yonge and Davisville.

Student and senior tickets would continue to be used, TTC spokesperson Brad Ross said, since most counterfeiting involves adult tickets. The proposal must still be formally approved. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Meeting to focus on 501

Despite imminent plans to build subways and exclusive lanes for buses and streetcars, the majority of GTA transit vehicles will continue to travel on streets where they mix with traffic.

Riders have become used to the slow speeds and uneven frequency of service that can result, but we trust that somebody in power is trying to minimize the impact of congestion on transit.

There have always been tools that, if actually used, can allow streetcars and buses to move more quickly and arrive at more evenly spaced intervals — tools like close supervision of transit routes or banning cars from making left-hand turns.

One Toronto route has become a particular focus of rider frustration — and also a guinea pig for testing potential improvements. The Queen 501 streetcar has received special attention ever since a petition circulated last summer among users fed up with bunching and short turns.

IN TRANSIT
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For months now the TTC has been trying to smooth out vehicles on this very long line. Next Monday officials will offer a progress report in a free public forum at City Hall. Following on a previous session held late last year, 501 riders can come and describe any changes they have noticed in the quality of service. Everyone is welcome.

Transit staff will outline future measures that could result in faster, more reliable service. There is a long list of possible remedies, which are divided into three categories: Changes the TTC can make to its own operations; changes the City of Toronto can make to the roads; and, lastly, changes in the way the Toronto Police Service enforces traffic.

Monday's meeting could be the first time the public will hear city and TTC managers discuss together the pros and cons of measures like banning left turns, altering traffic light sequences or extending parking prohibitions on transit routes — where "rush hour" bans could start earlier and end later.

Several TTC commissioners plan to attend, including chair Adam Giambrone and Toronto Coun. Sandra Bussin, who represents the Beach neighbourhood where 501 discontent is highest.

Respected transit commentators James Bow and Steve Munro are also expected and I'll be moderating the event, which starts at 7 p.m. on Monday in Committee Room 2 at Toronto City Hall.

* * * * *

Last Thursday, I overstated the number of transit stops in Toronto. The TTC serves 9,288 stops within city limits. About 4,000 of these have transit shelters, a total that is expected to grow to 6,000 over 20 years. However, only 30 new locations will be added in 2008 and just 40 in 2009. Since the city is more interested in replacing older structures, riders will have to wait years for protection at stops that currently do not have shelters.

That's too long.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA and elsewhere.

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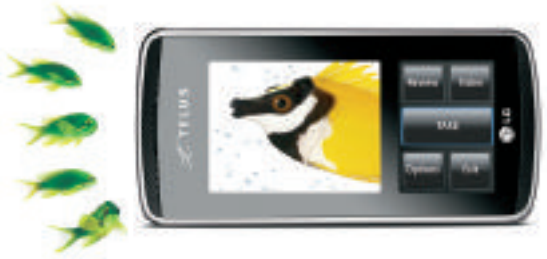

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canada

Senior Conservative adviser Bernard Cote has been fired after it was found that he briefly dated Julie Couillard, left, the woman behind the resignation of former foreign minister Maxime Bernier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cutting across generations

Oldest, youngest survivors present at apology

It was the end of a long day for Marguerite Wabano, but she was still able to smile widely as she raised her glass to the apology she had waited nearly a lifetime for.

"This is my offering of chalice," Wabano said in Swampy Cree translated by her niece Mary Lou Iahtail while taking a break at a reception on Parliament Hill yesterday evening.

At 104 years old, Wabano is the oldest survivor of the residential school system the federal government apologized for yesterday.

She lives south of James Bay in Moosonee, Ont., but was taken away from her family and sent to a residential school in Fort Albany, Ont.

Things were a little different for 17-year-old Crystal Merasty, the youngest residential schools survivor.

Her father, Eric McCallum, chose to send her to three years of residential school when she was eight years old. He knew that, for all its faults, it still offered a better education than they could get at their home in Sandy Bay in northeast Saskatchewan.

Merasty was presented a framed copy of the government's apology by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MIKE DEMBECK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diane Simon holds her four-year-old son Muin Simon yesterday during a "Letting Go" ceremony in Shubenacadie, N.S. First Nations people from around the province gathered at the site of the former Shubenacadie Residential School to remember and honour its former residents.

$14.5B tab for booze abuse

Alcohol abuse is costing you $463 a year; whether you drink or not.

Between the strain on the country's medical system, law enforcement organizations, and job productivity, alcohol related costs is running a $14.5-billion tab with the Canadian economy.

"Based on (that), different players, including Health Canada, provincial governments and NGOs, asked us what can we do about it," said Dr. Jürgen Rehm, a senior scientist with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Following a two-year investigation, Rehm and his team identified six "interventions" that, if implemented, could save the country as much as $1 billion and 800 lives.

The study, which was released yesterday, is the first of its kind in the world.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **DEFENCE** The Canadian military has abruptly ended court martial proceedings against Cpl. Sterling Strong from CFB Trenton, who was charged with playing "quick draw" while serving in Afghanistan. Strong was charged in 2007 with three counts under the National Defence Act.

» **INQUIRY** The judge presiding over an inquiry into flawed breast cancer tests in Newfoundland expressed frustration yesterday after the premier's top adviser said he couldn't remember how he learned of the errors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Aging population straining doctors

Chronically-ill patients taking up most time: Survey

As Canada's population ages, more and more patients are suffering from a host of chronic diseases, but there are too few general practitioners and specialists across the country to provide timely and quality care, a survey of doctors concludes.

In the 2007 National Physician Survey, released yesterday, 80 per cent of doctors pointed to patients with chronic diseases as placing the biggest demand on their time.

"Canada needs a co-ordinated, pan-Canadian approach to educate, train, recruit and retain a sufficient number of physicians to meet the needs of an aging population with multiple health problems," Dr. Louise Samson, president of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, said in a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

findings

» 86 per cent of family physicians provide care for patients with chronic mental illnesses.

» 88 per cent of family doctors care for patients with heart disease and high blood pressure.

Ontario

McGuinty defends street racing law

LEGISLATION Ontario's tough new street-racing laws need to remain in place despite criticism that many of those charged under the law are getting off easy in court, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"We think it's a good law. We think it's a solid law," he said. "We will continue to support the law."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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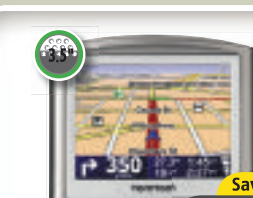

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world

U.S. congressman Frank Wolf said yesterday the FBI has found that four of his government computers have been hacked by sources working out of China. Wolf is a longtime critic of the Chinese government's human rights record. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stars out for Obama

Celebrities could offer edge during U.S. election

She hid behind giant sunglasses, but the unannounced Capitol Hill visit by Jennifer Lopez this week still drew a huge crowd. It wasn't just her black cocktail dress, it was also her destination — Barack Obama's office.

It may ultimately have no impact in the presidential election this November, but the JLo visit underscores the fact Democrat Obama is winning the image war against presumptive Republican nominee John McCain when it comes to star power, particularly of the beautiful young female type.

The rumour mill immediately spun with suggestions the singer/actress was planning to record a song for Obama, even though official word was she was discussing health and education issues with the Illinois senator's staff.

Her visit came on the heels of word from The Politico that actor Scarlett Johansson is one of Obama's biggest e-mail buddies. New mom Jessica Alba is squarely in the Obama camp, along with the likes of Jennifer Aniston and Halle Berry. Rising star Jessica Biel has appeared in a video and at a Los Angeles event for Obama.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jordan **Ancient site of worship**

MOHAMMAD ABU GHOSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker leaves a cave under Saint George's Church yesterday in Rihab, Mafraq, Jordan. Archaeologists in Jordan have discovered a cave underneath Saint George's Church, one of the world's oldest churches, and say it may have been an even more ancient site of Christian worship. But outside experts expressed caution about the claim.

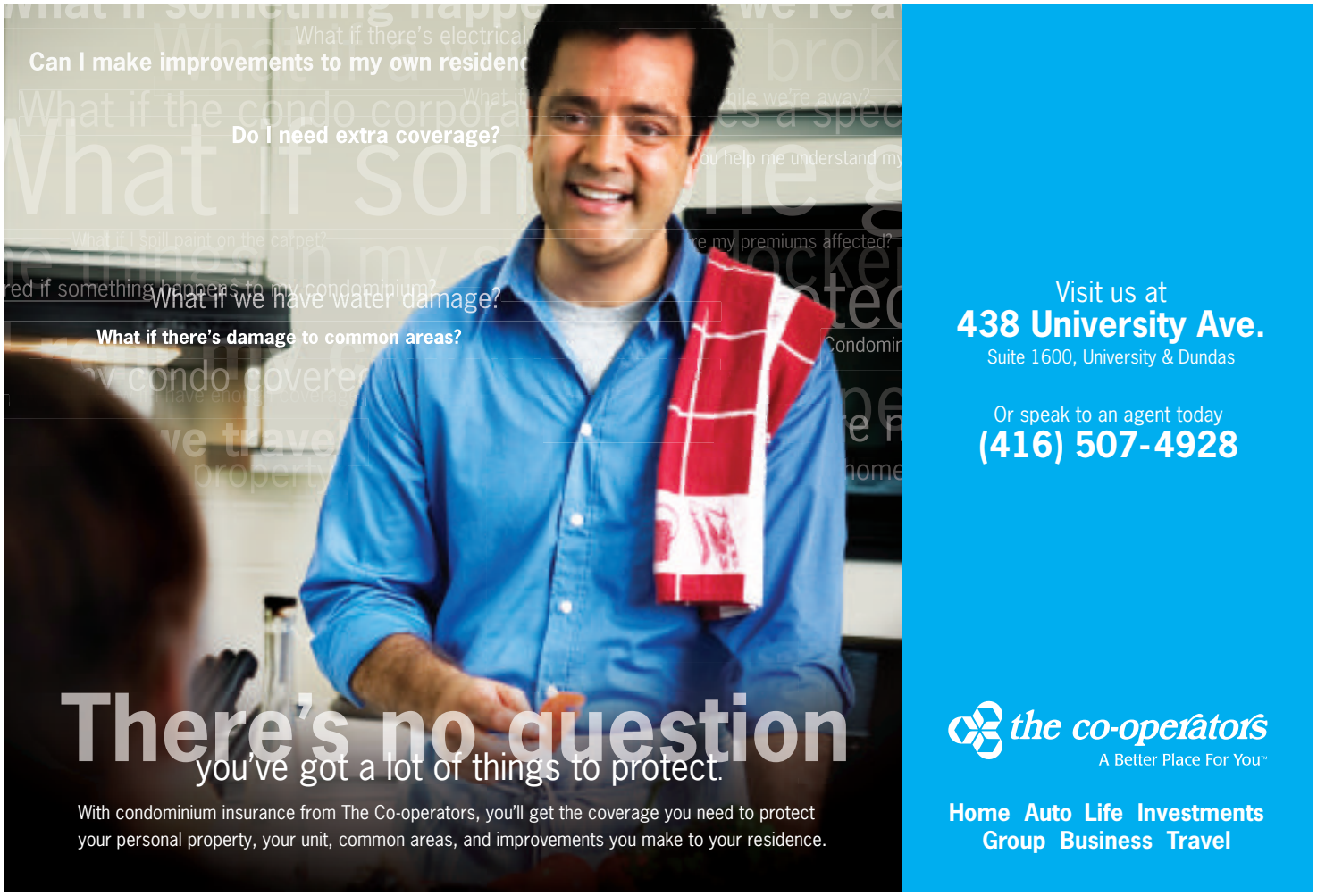
»news In Brief

» **AUSTRIA** A woman born and raised in the cellar where her mother allegedly was kept captive as a sex slave for 24 years has emerged from coma with two requests: To go on a boat ride and to see pop singer Robbie Williams in concert, doctors and a lawyer said yesterday. Kerstin Fritzl, 19, met with family members Sunday, shortly after doctors woke her from the induced coma she had been in for weeks, according to two doctors and Christoph Herbst, a family lawyer.

» **POLITICS** Jim Johnson, a manager of Democrat Barack Obama's vice-presidential search team, resigned yesterday amid criticism over his personal loan deals.

» **SHUTTLE** Space shuttle Discovery pulled away from the International Space Station yesterday, ending a nine-day visit highlighted by the installation of a new Japanese lab. The shuttle and its crew of seven, including a Japanese astronaut, are due back on Earth on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Survivors need help, UN says

Pregnant women caught in cyclone

Ten thousand pregnant cyclone survivors are in urgent need of proper care in Myanmar, a UN expert said yesterday, as relief agencies again raised concerns about the junta's willingness to accept foreign aid.

Pregnancy and childbirth were already relatively risky before cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, one of Asia's poorest countries, said William A. Ryan, a spokesman for the UN Population Fund.

More than 100 women give birth every day in the area affected by the cyclone, he told reporters in Bangkok.

"The destruction of health centres and loss of midwives have greatly increased the risks," he said. "It is clear that many pregnant women do not have anywhere to go to deliver with skilled assistance."

Ryan said that wrecked health facilities should be rebuilt and there is also a need for trained midwives.

The maternal mortality rate in Myanmar before the May 2-3 storm was 380 per 100,000 births; almost four times the rate in Thailand and 60 times the rate in Japan, Ryan said.

He said the UN Population Fund has provided supplies to Myanmar's Health Ministry for distribution to health clinics in 10 affected townships, including hospital equipment and gloves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

new rules

» International aid agencies said the government's new guidelines for delivering relief to cyclone survivors could slow their response.

» The rules would require a large amount of paperwork and repeated contacts with government agencies.

Madrid **Transport strike**

DENIS DOYLE/GETTY IMAGES

Police remove trucks yesterday blocking the N1 highway into the Spanish capital on the third day of the Spanish transport strike in Madrid, Spain. The haulers are demanding government action to alleviate the spike in oil prices.

Brown wins key terror vote

British legislators have voted to back tougher terror laws that will allow police to hold suspected terrorists for up to six weeks before charges are filed. Legislators voted 315-306 in favour of the plans yesterday following months of debate. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said police need more time to unravel increasingly sophisticated terror plots. Opponents claim the planned laws are draconian, unnecessary and likely to antagonize Muslim communities. The plans must now clear the House of Lords before they can pass into law.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

»news In Brief

» **SNAKE** A New York woman who awoke to her baby's cries was shocked to peer into the crib and find a snake wrapped around her seven-month-old daughter's leg. Officials say they don't know where the 30-centimetre-long non-venomous reptile came from.

» **NAIL** George Chandler says he didn't know a six-centimetre nail was driven into his skull until his buddy spotted it stuck through his cap. He said he felt only a sting. An emergency room doctor tried unsuccessfully to remove the nail with a pair of pliers.

» **TALKS** A Taiwanese delegation arrived in Beijing yesterday for talks on expanding charter flights between Taiwan and China. It's the first formal discussions between the sides since 1999.

» **POLITICS** Nepal's deposed king gave up his crown yesterday and left his palace forever.

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business

Dollar		Oil	
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	U.S.$ $1.02	$5.07	

Toyota says it will introduce a plug-in hybrid with next-generation lithium-ion batteries in Japan, North America and Europe by 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

»news In Brief

» **ENERGY** Oil prices regained their stunning upward momentum yesterday, soaring as crude's biggest drivers — a weak U.S. dollar and supply concerns — brought buyers back in force. The U.S. Energy Department said oil inventories fell by 4.6 million barrels last week. Crude rose $5.07 to settle at $136.38 US a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

» **TECH** Nortel Networks Corp. announced yesterday it's turning its internal research focus away from WiMax and toward another broadband wireless technology called LTE as part of a new joint venture with Tel Aviv-based Alvarion Ltd. Its stock gained 14 per cent to close at $9.42.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

office space

Demand expected to ease next year

VACANCIES The office vacancy rate in the Greater Toronto Area is expected to hit a historic low this year before a faltering economy eases the demand pressure in 2009. Already in the second quarter, the vacancy rate stands at 5.3 per cent. After a five-year run of higher rental rates for increasingly scarce prime office space, economic uncertainty is likely to mean that office vacancies will start to rise early next year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IMAGE BOX INC., STEVE BOYALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google co-founder Sergey Brin, centre, trains in zero gravity in air space above California recently.

Cyberspace to outer space

Space Adventures, which sends wealthy tourists to the International Space Station, says Google co-founder Sergey Brin has paid $5 million US to reserve a seat on a future flight.

Company officials also say they have struck a deal with the Russian space agency to launch the first entirely private Soyuz flight to the space station in 2011. Two seats will be available.

The Virginia-based company has sent five tourists into space so far. The sixth customer is due to go up in October. He paid $35 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Third line for Oshawa?

Province holding talks with GM

General Motors and the Ontario government are in discussions about adding a third car line at the automaker's troubled plant in Oshawa, Economic Development and Trade Minister Sandra Pupatello said yesterday.

Talks to determine whether a third car line could be added are taking place at a very "high level," Pupatello said.

Ever since GM announced it would close the doors of the plant in Oshawa, workers have been blocking access to GM's Canadian headquarters to protest the closure.

background

» Last week GM announced it would close the doors of the plant in Oshawa in 2009, citing rising fuel costs and lower demand for gas-guzzling trucks. The plant employs 2,600 people.

On Tuesday, GM applied for a court order to end the blockade, and also announced it was seeking $1.5 million in compensation from the CAW local union and some of its members.

If the company successfully convinces the court to order an end to the blockade, the workers will simply take their protest elsewhere, said Local 222 chairman Keith Osborne. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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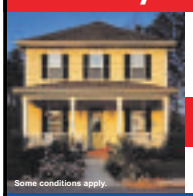

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sports

The Detroit Red Wings have rewarded head coach Mike Babcock, left, for winning the Stanley Cup last week by giving him a three-year contract extension. The Wings have a 162-56-28 record under Babcock. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fletcher to remain Leafs' GM

'I'll stay on as long as I have to,' says executive

The Maple Leafs want to hire the right person to fill their vacant general manager's position and they're willing to wait to get him.

Unable to lure away the top candidates on their short list, the Leafs have decided to keep Cliff Fletcher in the interim GM role likely through next season.

"Some people think hiring senior positions can be done quickly and easily," Richard Peddie, president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, said yesterday. "It's not that way in any industry. In this case, we did a very thorough analysis."

Peddie said the GM search committee, which includes himself and lawyer Gord Kirke, did its due diligence in compiling a list of candidates but discovered none were available at this time.

"We talked to everyone from league officials, to agents, to some media, to peers, to people in the industry, to see if there was some kind of consensus," said Peddie. "And while the sample size was huge, no one got unanimous marks. ...

Fletcher

"With all of that data, we identified who we thought were the top candidates," added Peddie. "Then we started asking for permission and started finding out they were under contract and that the free agency class in the spring of 2009 was pretty good. So it's unlikely Cliff will leave any time soon."

One GM whose contract expires after next season is Brian Burke, who has long been rumoured as MLSE's top candidate.

Fletcher, meanwhile, is more than willing to stay on and help out.

"Originally I signed a 19-month contract with the Leafs going through September of next year," Fletcher said yesterday. "In the last month they've been having discussions whether moving forward it made sense to wait for the right person — to wait for one of their top choices to become available.

"I just told them, 'Hey look, I'll stay on as long as I have to until you have that person and when you get that person I'll step aside.' That could be September, it could be the middle of the season, or the end of the season."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Senators closing in on new bench boss

JOBS The Ottawa Senators are soon hoping to hire a new head coach but reports yesterday that they had found their man were premature.

"I haven't hired anybody at this point in time," Senators GM Bryan Murray told The Canadian Press yesterday morning.

Reports surfaced yesterday that Murray had hired highly touted junior coach Peter DeBoer from the OHL's Kitchener Rangers.

NHL

McLellan hired as new Sharks coach

JOBS The San Jose Sharks hired former Detroit Red Wings assistant Todd McLellan as their head coach yesterday, bringing in a leader with Stanley Cup winning credentials to replace the fired Ron Wilson.

McLellan will be formally introduced at a news conference with general manager Doug Wilson today.

McLellan had spent the past three seasons as an assistant in Detroit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Garbo finished as a Raptor: Report

Spanish forward may be bought out

Jorge Garbajosa may have played his last game for the Raptors.

Garbajosa

According to Spanish media reports, the Raptors are trying negotiate a buyout of the final year of Garbajosa's contract, worth $4.35 million US.

Garbajosa spent the majority of the past season recovering from a gruesome leg injury suffered in March 2006. The Raptors filed a lawsuit against the Spanish basketball federation in March, over money they felt they were owed on an insurance claim against Garbajosa's contract.

Raptors president and GM Bryan Colangelo said yesterday the team was still trying to come to a resolution in the case, but he couldn't comment further. Colangelo told reporters late last month the lawsuit was on hold while the team tried amicably to come to an agreement with the Spanish federation.

Garbajosa, a 6-foot-9 Spanish forward, played just seven games this past season before having surgery on his left ankle and leg to repair lingering damage from his injury.

The Spanish federation had taken out a $1-million US insurance policy when Garbajosa — against the Raptors' recommendations — played for Spain at the European championships last summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Farewell **Linden ends 19-year career**

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Longtime Canuck Trevor Linden listens to a media question after announcing his retirement from the NHL yesterday in Vancouver. Linden spent 16 of his 19 NHL seasons as a Canuck.

»sports In Brief

» **NBA** Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo didn't practise with his teammates yesterday because of a left ankle bone bruise he suffered in Boston's 78-71 Game 3 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night. Rondo says he will continue to get treatment on the ankle and he expects to play in Game 4 tonight. The Celtics lead the best-of-seven NBA Finals 2-1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blue Jays let another close one slip away

Toronto loses two of three games to lowly Mariners

MARINERS 2 BLUE JAYS 1

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons gets ejected by home plate umpire Andy Fletcher after pitcher B.J. Ryan gave up the eventual game-winning run to the Seattle Mariners yesterday.

Home plate umpire Andy Fletcher's liberal strike zone had plenty of players shaking their heads yesterday afternoon and no one was left more frustrated than Toronto Blue Jays closer B.J. Ryan.

The big left-hander felt he had Miguel Cairo rung up on a 3-2 pitch for the final out of the ninth inning but didn't get the call, and Raul Ibanez followed the walk with a clutch RBI single that gave the Seattle Mariners a 2-1 victory.

Ryan, who was ejected for arguing balls and strikes after the Ibanez single along with manager John Gibbons, didn't speak to reporters after the game. But catcher Rod Barajas said that somewhere between his at-bat in the bottom of the eighth and the disheartening top of the ninth, Fletcher's zone tightened up.

"I felt like the second pitch to me was a ball off the plate and he called it a strike. That's fine, I'm OK with that," said Barajas. "Then I see B.J. hit the same spot and it's called a ball. It's a little frustrating.

"What you don't like to see is the strike zone change and for me, from my at-bat to going behind the plate and working it seemed like it changed a little in the ninth."

The latest punch-in-the-gut loss for the Blue Jays dropped them back to .500 and sent them into their off-day today with a sick feeling after dropping two of three to the lowly Mariners.

They must now regroup for the NL-Central leading Chicago Cubs, who arrive for three starting tomorrow to conclude a nine-game homestand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

»sports In Brief

» **MLB** St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols is expected to miss at least three weeks with a strained left calf. The first baseman suffered the injury while running out a ground ball during a 7-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

» **MLB** A Red Sox Nation slugger has found a new country to call home. David Ortiz and 220 other immigrants became U.S. citizens yesterday at a ceremony in Boston. Ortiz is a native of the Dominican Republic.

» **NFL** New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress is refusing to practise because the Super Bowl champs haven't renegotiated his contract. Burress reported for a mandatory minicamp yesterday, but said he told the coaching staff he won't work out without a new deal.

» **CYCLING** Former world champion Tom Boonen has been barred from this year's Tour de France after testing positive for cocaine. The rest of Boonen's Quick Step team can still compete, Tour organizers said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Golf fans face first ever smoke-free U.S. Open

'I don't think it's fair,' says Jimenez

Spectators at the U.S. Open had better keep their butts off Torrey Pines Golf Course: No smoking allowed.

To both the delight and indignation of the gallery, the 108th Open starting today will be golf's first smoke-free major.

"Woo-hoo!" hollered Jill Kulper, of Sacramento, attending the tournament with her husband and young children. "Now we don't have to move away from a good spot when somebody starts smoking a stogie."

Never mind that golf and cigars go together almost like cake and ice cream. Spectators caught smoking — cigarettes or cigars — face up to a $100 US fine.

STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES

Miguel Angel Jimenez will still be able to light up at this week's U.S. Open — even if spectators won't.

"I sympathize with them. I don't think it's fair," Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez, one of the European Tour's top players and a cigar aficionado, said after puffing his way through a practice round yesterday.

"I don't see what's the problem. Why not make everyone ride a bike here instead of driving their cars? We're in open space. I thought we were supposed to have freedom to do what we want."

Well, he does.

The U.S. Golf Association sought exemptions for everyone, including spectators, at Torrey Pines after San Diego officials banned smoking at its beaches, city parks and municipal golf courses in 2006, said Reg Jones, managing director for the U.S. Open.

The city rejected that request but did agree to exempt the players, their caddies and others inside the ropes that keep spectators off the course.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NBA

NBA FINALS

BOSTON VS. L.A. LAKERS

Game 3 — Tuesday
L.A. Lakers 87 Boston 81
Game 4 — Tonight
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 5 — Sunday
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 6 — Tuesday
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9
Game 7 — Thursday, June 19
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 9
(Boston leads series 2-1)
(* – if necessary)

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	41	27	.603	—
Tampa Bay	38	28	.576	2
N.Y. Yankees	33	32	.508	6½
TORONTO	**34**	**34**	**.500**	**7**
Baltimore	32	32	.500	7

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	37	28	.569	—
Minnesota	32	34	.485	5½
Cleveland	30	36	.455	7½
Detroit	28	37	.431	9
Kansas City	25	40	.385	12

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	41	26	.612	—
Oakland	34	30	.531	5½
Texas	33	33	.500	7½
Seattle	24	42	.364	16½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	39	28	.582	—
Florida	36	29	.554	2
Atlanta	32	33	.492	6
N.Y. Mets	30	33	.476	7
Washington	26	41	.388	13

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	41	24	.631	—
St. Louis	40	27	.597	2
Milwaukee	33	31	.516	7½
Houston	33	32	.508	8
Pittsburgh	32	34	.485	9½
Cincinnati	31	36	.463	11

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	35	30	.538	—
L.A. Dodgers	31	33	.484	3½
San Francisco	29	36	.446	6
San Diego	28	38	.424	7½
Colorado	25	39	.391	9½

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Seattle 2 **TORONTO** 1
Boston 6 Baltimore 3
Detroit 5 Chicago White Sox 1
L.A. Angels 4 Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 8 Cleveland 5
Texas at Kansas City
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 6 Philadelphia 2
Pittsburgh 3 Washington 1
St. Louis 10 Cincinnati 0
Arizona at N.Y. Mets
Atlanta at Chicago Cubs
Milwaukee at Houston
San Francisco at Colorado
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago White Sox at Detroit, 1:05
Texas at Kansas City, 2:10
Baltimore at Boston, 6:05
Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:05
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland, 10:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington at Pittsburgh, 12:35
Arizona at N.Y. Mets, 1:10
Milwaukee at Houston, 2:05
Atlanta at Chicago Cubs, 2:20
San Francisco at Colorado, 3:05
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 3:35
Philadelphia at Florida, 7:10
St. Louis at Cincinnati, 7:10

CFL

PRE-SEASON

TONIGHT'S GAMES

TORONTO at Montreal, 7
Winnipeg at Hamilton, 7

TOMORROW'S GAMES

B.C. at Saskatchewan, 9
Edmonton at Calgary, 9

MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

SATURDAY'S GAME

Colorado at **TORONTO**, 7

LOTTERIES

Lotto 6/49	2, 24, 33, 35, 44 & 48. Bonus 37.
Ontario 49	3, 16, 21, 28, 34 & 46. Bonus 32.
Ontario Pick 3	1 8 2
Ontario Pick 4	8 2 0 7
Encore	9813112
Daily Keno	2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, 24, 34, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 49, 52, 57, 59, 67.

Results not official

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EURO 2008

The names of the Euro 2008 mascots, Trix and Flix, left, were voted in by fans in Austria and Switzerland. The losing choices were Flitz and Blitz and Zagi and Zigi. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Portugal playoff bound

Turkey eliminates unlucky Switzerland

Portugal became the first team to reach the European Championship quarter-finals, beating the Czech Republic 3-1 yesterday and then advancing after Turkey defeated Switzerland 2-1.

Portugal, which played in the Euro 2004 final and also made the World Cup semifinals two years ago, was the favourite in Group A and lived up to that label by qualifying for the knock-out rounds with one game to spare.

Cristiano Ronaldo, as expected, was the star for the Portuguese team, scoring one goal and setting up another in Geneva. The Manchester United winger scored his first for the national team since October in the 63rd minute to give his team a 2-1 lead.

"It was very difficult to penetrate the defence," Ronaldo said. "If we're carrying on playing like this as a unit, we've got great chances."

Deco gave Portugal the lead in the eighth minute, scoring from close range after Ronaldo and Nuno Gomes exchanged passes in the area. Libor Sionko equalized in the 17th, but Ronaldo put his team ahead in the second half and Ricardo Quaresma tapped in from close range in injury time.

"We are among the best eight squads in Europe," said Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari. "Of course, we want more than that."

With both teams coming off wins in their openers, Portugal's impressive ball movement and free-flowing style gave them the edge throughout the match.

"They were able to make perfect transition from defence into offence," Czech coach Karel Bruckner said.

The Czechs play Turkey on Sunday in Geneva, and the winner would join Portugal in the quarter-finals. Switzerland faces Portugal in the other group match, which has little at stake since the Portuguese have already clinched first place in the group.

Switzerland became only the second European Championship team to be eliminated from the tournament without reaching the last four, joining Euro 2000 co-host Belgium.

The Swiss played impressive football throughout a downpour in the first half, stringing together passes and keeping the ball off the soaked field and in the air as much as possible. But in injury time, Arda Turan sent a shot from outside the area that deflected in off Switzerland defender Patrick Mueller to give the Turks the win.

"Of course, the disappointment is huge," Swiss coach Koebi Kuhn said. "But I can't blame it on any player or anyone else. We lost twice unluckily."

Hakin Yakin had given the hosts the lead in the 32nd, tapping in a pass across the front of goal that got stuck in a puddle. Semih Senturk equalized in the 57th by heading in a cross from Nihat Kahveci. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portugal's Deco scores the opening goal past Czech Republic's Petr Cech as Portugal's Nuno Gomes looks on yesterday during their Euro 2008 Group A match in Geneva, Switzerland. Portugal clinched a quarter-final spot with a 3-1 win.

IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swiss fans react after their team dropped a 2-1 decision to Turkey yesterday at Euro 2008 in Basel. The loss eliminated Switzerland from playoff contention.

soccer

Chelsea appoints Scolari as manager

JOBS Chelsea has appointed Luiz Felipe Scolari as its new manager.

Scolari

The Premier League club says on its website that Scolari will begin his new job on July 1.

Scolari is currently coaching Portugal at the European Championship.

He replaces Avram Grant, who left Stamford Bridge after finishing second to Manchester United in the Premier League title race and the Champions League. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

EURO 2008

GROUP A

	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
X-Portugal	2	0	0	5	1	6
Czech Republic	1	1	0	2	3	3
Turkey	1	1	0	2	3	3
Switzerland	0	2	0	1	3	0

GROUP B

	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Germany	1	0	0	2	0	3
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	3
Austria	0	1	0	0	1	0
Poland	0	1	0	0	2	0

GROUP C

	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Netherlands	1	0	0	3	0	3
France	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	0	0	1	0	0	1
Italy	0	1	0	0	3	0

GROUP D

	W	L	T	GF	GA	PT
Spain	1	0	0	4	1	3
Sweden	1	0	0	2	0	3
Greece	0	1	0	0	2	0
Russia	0	1	0	1	4	0

(X - clinched quarter-final spot)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Portugal 3 Czech Republic 1
Turkey 2 Switzerland 1

TODAY'S GAMES

Croatia vs. Germany, 12
Austria vs. Poland, 2:45

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Italy vs. Romania, 12
Netherlands vs. France, 2:45

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food

Asparagus is an excellent source of folate, which helps prevent changes to DNA, which, in turn, reduces your chances of developing cancer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A 'season to taste'

By **BARB HOLLAND**
Metro Food Writer

Asparagus season is short, usually just 4 to 6 weeks, depending on weather and locale. So pick up the last of local asparagus and grill it up with salmon, potatoes and pepper and toss with greens for a lovely warm weather dinner. Serve this recipe with some great bread and glass of chilled white wine. For this week's Billy's Best Bottles column, in which Billy unearths the best new white wine of the year, visit *metronews.ca*.

Roasting and grilling concentrate the flavour of most foods, particularly vegetables that are often cooked in water, such as asparagus.

Grilled Asparagus, Salmon and Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS:
1 lb (500 g) fresh local asparagus (1 bunch)
8 – 12 small potatoes, about 12 oz (375 g)
1 yellow pepper, quartered
Extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper
12 oz (375 g) salmon fillet
8 cups (2 L) mixed salad greens

Honey Tarragon Dressing

INGREDIENTS:
1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
1 tbsp (15 mL) honey
2 tbsp (25 mL) white wine vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) fresh lemon juice
1 tsp (5 mL) dried tarragon leaves
½ tsp (2 mL) salt
¼ tsp (1 mL) pepper
1/3 cup (75 mL) olive or vegetable oil

PREPARATION TIME: 15 minutes
GRILLING TIME: 30 minutes

Serves 4

METHOD: Make dressing: In small bowl, whisk mustard, honey, vinegar and lemon juice. Add tarragon, salt and pepper. Slowly whisk in oil. Re-whisk just before serving, store any leftover in sealed jar in refrigerator. Makes about 2/3 cup (150 mL).

Brush salmon with 1 tbsp (15 mL) dressing while preparing remaining ingredients and preheating barbecue. Place greens in a large salad bowl. Wash asparagus well, snap off ends. Scrub potatoes. Toss asparagus, potatoes and yellow pepper with a little olive oil and season lightly with salt and pepper.

Grill asparagus, potatoes, pepper and salmon on preheated barbecue over medium to medium-high heat until salmon is opaque and vegetables are done, 20 to 30 minutes. Remove items as they are cooked.

Slice salmon, asparagus and pepper into bite-size pieces. Cut potatoes in half or quarters, depending on size. Add all to salad greens; add a small amount of dressing and toss well. Serve immediately.

TIP #1: A flat grill with holes simplifies grilling fish and a grill basket is good for small vegetables such as small potatoes.

TIP #2: Refrigerate remaining dressing.

Asparagus Tips:

- Look for firm, straight spears with deep green or purple tips that are compact and tightly closed. The stem ends should be moist and green, not grey, cracked or dry.
- Skinny, medium or large, the size isn't the issue, but try to pick similar size spears for even cooking. Medium to large are better for the grill.
- The fresher the better — asparagus is best cooked the day you buy it. To store any longer, cut 1 inch (2.5 cm) or so off the ends and wrap the ends in wet paper towel and store in plastic bag; or store like flowers, upright in 1 inch (2.5 cm) of water in a container and cover with plastic.
- Grit and sand can wedge itself in the tightly compacted tips, so wash well, lightly scrubbing the tips. Break off asparagus stems where they snap easily, composting the ends.
- Roasting and grilling concentrate the flavour of most foods, particularly vegetables that are often cooked in water, such as asparagus. Toss in a little oil, season to taste and grill over a high to medium-high heat until tender-crisp but bright green. For doneness, go by looks rather than time.

Nutritional Info

1 Serving	
Protein:	23 grams
Fat:	15 grams
Carbohydrates:	28 grams
Calories:	343

Asparagus is a good source of fibre.

just a bite

Prosciutto provides a touch of saltiness and crisp contrast to this tender, grilled asparagus.

Grilled Prosciutto and Asparagus Bundles

SERVES 6 Wash 36 spears of fresh Ontario asparagus well; snap off ends. Dry and toss with oil and season with pepper. Divide asparagus into 12 bundles of 3 spears each; wrap each bundle of 3 with 1 piece of prosciutto.

Place bundles on greased grill over medium to medium-high heat; grill until asparagus is bright green and tender and prosciutto is crisp, about 5 minutes.

Serve bundles warm with a drizzle of garlicky Caesar dressing. METRO NEWS SERVICES

healthy living

The benign fresh green delicacy

NUTRITION Asparagus is high in folate, a source of vitamin C and A, iron, phosphorus, potassium, thiamine and riboflavin. Each spear has about 8 calories.

According to the National Cancer Institute, it is the highest tested food containing the antioxidant glutathione, which is one of the body's most potent cancer fighters. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metro

FATHER'Sday

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Splash out

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The Vivace bike, a.k.a. the Ferrari of road bikes, from $4,880. Log on to *www.opus-bike.com* for retail locations.

Meco 21½-inch Walk-A-Bout Portable Charcoal Grill, $64. Available at Lowe's. Go to *www.lowes.ca* for retail locations.

G5 grill from George Foreman, $149.99. Comes with five interchangeable plates. Available at Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire. Go to *www.wal-mart.ca* and *www.canadiantire.ca* for retail locations.

Mastercraft Organizer-Top Toolbox, currently on sale from $7.99 (reg. from $19.99). Available at Canadian Tire. Visit *www.canadiantire.ca* for locations.

Leather recliner, currently on sale for $2,999 plus tax (reg. price is $5,000) available at Adjustable Beds Plus (1875 Leslie St., Unit 9), 416-444-5800 or *www.bedsplus.ca*.

Mastercraft Maximum 10-inch Sliding Dual-Beveling Compound Mitre Saw with Laser ($499.99). Available at Canadian Tire. Visit *www.canadiantire.ca* for locations.

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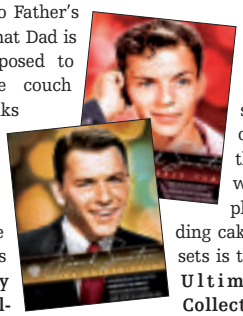
DVD collections great gift for Dad

Studios release avalanche of war films, westerns

By **RICK McGINNIS**
Metro Toronto

The Rat Pack Ultimate Collection brings together the original Ocean's 11, and includes films such as Robin And The 7 Hoods, 4 For Texas and Sergeants 3.

Just as Mother's Day is presaged by a torrent of romantic comedies and Halloween by the release of ever-more-obscure horror films from the vaults of the studios, the lead-up to Father's Day usually involves an avalanche of war films and westerns on DVD. This year, however, there have been a few wrinkles in the DVD prelude to Father's Day — a day that Dad is obviously supposed to spend on the couch watching tanks crash through hedgerows and bad guys go down gut-shot.



Top of the shopping list is Warner's **Dirty Harry: The Ultimate Collection** — seven discs collecting all five of Clint Eastwood's portrayals of the cop who never heard of Miranda rights. Warner's deluxe set comes with a little hardcover book, a map of Harry's pursuit of the Scorpio Killer through San Francisco in the first film, a collection of facsimiles of studio paperwork on the series, and a little toy Harry Callaghan badge for Dad to use if he wants Mom to do her best Sondra Locke after the kids are in bed.

Warner's also has a hell of a Frank Sinatra reissue program to draw on for Father's Day DVD gifts. **Sinatra**, the award-winning miniseries biopic of Sinatra's life starring Philip Casnoff as the singer — produced by Sinatra's daughter Tina — is a fond look at the singer with only a few of the famous warts on display. The wedding cake of the box sets is the **Rat Pack Ultimate Collector's Edition**, which brings together the original Ocean's 11 with its three successively less swinging follow-ups — **Robin And The 7 Hoods**, **4 For Texas** and **Sergeants 3** — with a collection of facsimile promo photos, lobby cards and an exhibitor's publicity book for the first film, along with a souvenir deck of cards.

Less lavish — but probably more basically watchable — is the three-disc set collecting the films Sinatra made with Gene Kelly (**On The Town**, **Take Me Out To The Ball Game** and **Anchors Aweigh**). **Frank Sinatra: The Golden Years** brings together five films Sinatra made after his post-comeback pinnacle in the '50s and early '60s, including **The Man With The Golden Arm** and **Some Came Running**. **Frank Sinatra: The Early Years** does the same thing for Skinny Frankie in the '40s, with titles like **It Happened In Brooklyn** and **Step Lively**.

Finally, if Dad has managed to get a Blu-ray player, MGM has a quintet of war films out in high-def. **Patton**, **The Longest Day** and **The Sand Pebbles** all duplicate their regular DVD special editions, with bonus features on an extra disc for the first two titles, and Dad will probably experience shell shock after seeing these old favourites in HD. The discs of **The Battle Of Britain** and **A Bridge Too Far** come bare bones, however, without any special features, which means Dad will probably want to keep his DVD versions.

Dirty Harry: The Ultimate Collection contains seven discs with all five of Clint Eastwood's portrayals of the famous cop.

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Whitney Town Centre

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Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

MILTON
377 Main St. E.

MISSISSAUGA
980 Eglinton Ave. E.
2800 Skymark Ave., #6
6965 Davand Dr., #12
Dixie Value Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Power Centre
Sheridan Centre
Smart Centres Westgate
Square One Shopping Centre
Square One Shopping Centre – kiosk

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Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
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2081 Steeles Avenue West
Bayview Village
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Sheppard Centre
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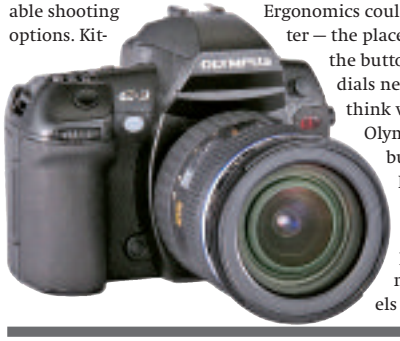
Cameras, TVs way to Dad's heart

Olympus E-3 Digital Camera

Price: $1,799.99, body only

WHAT IS IT? It's Olympus' entry into the pro SLR digital camera market — a sturdy, full-featured 10 megapixel camera with an impressive range of lenses and accessories.

WHAT WORKS: Pretty near everything. This isn't a camera for amateurs — the E-3 is meant to occupy the high point of the prosumer market, with complex autofocus and metering and a range of customizable shooting options. Kitted out with the 12-60mm zoom lens ($1049.99, but cheaper in a package with the body) and the FL-50R flash ($499.99), it makes for an unbeatable package for almost any situation. The real joy of the E-3, though, is Olympus' superb lenses — a spectacular range that perform particularly well on the wide angle end. Some reviews have complained about the card slots — both CF and the more obscure xD are built in — but frankly, it's nice to have the extra memory.



WHAT DOESN'T WORK: Ergonomics could be better — the placement of the buttons and dials need a rethink when Olympus builds the E-3's successor, by which point 10 megapixels will also seem a bit scanty. You should also keep in touch with Olympus for firmware updates — the E-3 I tested needed a crucial one that affected the functioning of the HLD-4 battery grip ($259.99). A big ticket item, but doesn't Dad deserve it? This Dad does.

Toshiba Regza 40RF350U 40" LCD TV

Price: $1,999

WHAT IS IT? A 1080p LCD TV, big enough for a small-to-mid-sized living room, with the usual bells and whistles.

WHAT WORKS: You can't argue with Toshiba's Regza line — these are fine flat-panel screens, calibrated to perform well with DVDs and digital TV. The remote — a monster, by any standards — offers decent control of aspect ratio, colour and brightness presets and everything else you'll need to worry about if you're using the unit to play both movies and cable. It's also been designed with one of the thinnest bezels on the market, so you can fit it in that lovely TV cabinet you bought when you still had the old tube TV and get screen in there — and not speakers and case.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK: The resulting slim-bezel design has a lot more "junk in the trunk" — it's thicker than a lot of flat panels out there, which reduces its wall-mounting potential a bit, but let's be honest — only stereo stores, corporate reception areas and showrooms wall mount their TVs.

Kodak V1273 Digital Camera

Price: $279.95

WHAT IS IT? A pocket-sized 12 megapixel digital snapshot camera. This sort of thing is getting pretty common these days, as point-and-shoot cameras are shooting images as big as pro SLRs, but the V1273's edge is a big touchscreen interface on the back. Touchscreens are, let's be honest, the way things are going, and Kodak is stepping into the camera market with a touchscreen interface early.

WHAT WORKS: Well, the touchscreen, for one. The menu — a scrolling strip at the top of the screen — is quick and easy to use, and together with Kodak's Smart Capture mode, you won't need to fuss with buttons and sub-menus in most picture-taking situations. Also, the shutter lag — the amount of time between pressing the shutter and taking the picture — has been reduced to almost nothing with the V1273. This is probably even happier news than the space-age interface.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK: The V1273 isn't the slimmest piece of camera. There's a bit of width and weight to the unit that's becoming rarer with each generation of snapshot camera, but this is the price you pay for the cutting edge of interface and image size. The sleek, matte charcoal finish is nice, but the design minimalism goes just a touch too far with the tiny nub of a zoom button.

— RICK McGINNIS/METRO TORONTO

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Microsoft 80GB Zune
Media Player

Price: $249.99

WHAT IS IT? Microsoft's assault on the iPod monolith. Comes in three sizes — this is the largest. Wireless file transfer, FM Radio, and something called The Social, which is supposed to be Microsoft's edge over iTunes — a social network for Zune owners to talk about music.

WHAT WORKS: The Zune is a pretty great mp3 player — great interface, bright screen, more than decent battery life, and with the deluxe earpods included only with the 80GB player, the sound is fantastic. The screen is bigger than any iPod except the Touch, which makes video viewing a bit less eye-straining. Syncing the player wirelessly is a nifty trick, but as I still haven't met another Zune user, I haven't had a chance to check out the Zune-to-Zune file swapping trick yet.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK: The Zune's software interface for organizing playlists and syncing with your computer isn't nearly as easy to use as iTunes — but nothing is. No built-in EQ, but the sound is so good it's almost beside the point.

Sharp BD-HP20U
Blu-ray Player

Price: $499.99

WHAT IS IT? Sharp's flagship Blu-ray player. The format war is over, and this is the sort of thing you'll be looking at if you want to really rock that new LCD or plasma screen you've bought. Full 1080p, regular DVD upconversion, yadda yadda. Look, you know you're going to get one of these one day.

WHAT WORKS: The BD-HP20U is probably the best Blu-ray player I've tested out since the technology debuted. No rejected discs or crashes, and you can do firmware updates (not just recommended but necessary) through a USB slot on the back. It also has one of the smallest cases on the Blu-ray market, which means it'll fit in your Ikea cabinet without hanging out the front and stopping you from closing the door.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK: Load times, while better than most other units on the market, are still agonizingly slow — up to a minute or more for Blu-ray discs. An Ethernet port would have been nice, once they get Blu-ray interactivity to a point where it's more than just a gimmick, but these are relatively minor complaints — if you're jumping in now, this is a great place to start.

Sharp LC-46D64U
46" LCD TV

Price: $1,999.99

WHAT IS IT? It's a pretty big LCD TV, probably just about the right size for the average apartment living room. At full 1080p, it's the sort of thing you'll want for your Blu-ray player or upconverting DVD machine.

WHAT WORKS: Sharp is blessed with the best name in the TV game — their screens are notable for a bright crispness that makes almost anything look good. The brightness can be a bit much sometimes — toggle around through the presets and you'll probably prefer the cinema setting to avoid that "caught in the searchlight" feeling. The good news is that they're great for watching in rooms with a lot of daylight. Sharp also boasts about the "green-ness" of the unit's power consumption and manufacturing process, which is nice if you care about that sort of thing.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK: Not much, except for the price, which is on the high end for flat screens of this size.

— RICK McGINNIS/METRO TORONTO

hot gadget gifts

» TomTom ONE 3rd edition GPS system, $149.99. Available at Future Shop, *www.futureshop.ca*.

» Harmony Universal Remote by Logitech, $149.99. Available at Future Shop, *www.futureshop.ca*.

» EcoSmart Reflection laptop cases, made of recyclable materials, by Targus. Prices range from $59.99-$149.99. Available at Staples, Office Depot, and online at *www.targus.com/ca*.

Concentrate on man himself

Maybe he'd like some time alone

By **RICK McGINNIS**
Metro Toronto

Filmmaker Dana Glazer wants your money. The scriptwriter is trying to finish a documentary film about modern fatherhood, and he's put up an appeal for funding on his website (*www.evolutionofdad.com*) so he can pull together the hundreds of interviews he's done in the last year into a film essay about men and their families, called The Evolution Of Dad.

The trailer for the film, also on the site, features a state trooper who had to sue to get the leave he requested when his wife became ill, and a boxer who's raising six kids on his own. It also includes experts ruminating about the state of fatherhood, and the persistent image of distant men who drop in every now and then on the wife and children for whom they're the breadwinner to either solicit a few hugs or act as disciplinarian. That image, from what Glazer's trailer seems to assert, is hardly extinct, but it's certainly nowhere near as prevalent as it was once supposed to be.

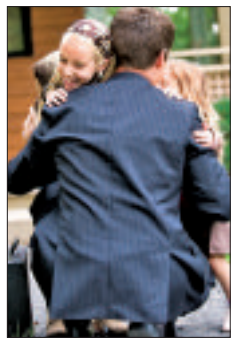
Like the little top-hatted plutocrat on the Monopoly board with his striped pants and spats that's still pressed into service to typify the wealthy, the image of Dad in popular culture persists in burping up either the eccentric patrician — William Powell in the 1947 film Life With Father — or the pipe-and-slippers wisdom dispenser played on TV by Robert Young in Father Knows Best.

More often these days, however, we're faced with the dad of sitcoms, commercials and movie comedies — the slightly self-obsessed boy man with his inept hobbies and dismal home renos, marked for karmic humiliation and the eye-rolling sufferance of his wife and spawn. This is the Dad, we soon come to presume, for whom porn is a gift, as it's unlikely he'd ever figure out how to rise to the status of fatherhood without visual aids.

As Father's Day approaches, we're confronted with appeals, both philanthropic and commercial, to celebrate the occasion. You can take the high road and run for prostate cancer, or buy the big guy a new impact driver to repair the rotting deck, and hope he doesn't lose a finger above the knuckle. A big new TV is always welcome — after all, what harm can he do to himself lying on the couch?

You can, if you're feeling brave, forget all this and concentrate on the man himself, and not some caricature he probably hates or ideal he can't hope to meet. Perhaps he'd like the big TV, or the time to finish the deck, or a day with the family he wishes he saw more. Or maybe he's like so many Dads — married to another breadwinner, and just as harried and sleep-deprived as his better half. In that case, maybe he'd like a little time alone, if you're willing to let him relive those long-gone days when free time wasn't just the hour he had to pick up dry-cleaning and a new garage door opener.

Chances are he probably thinks those days were overrated, in retrospect, and in his absence you might discover he has a role in the house a bit more complex than some balding boob in a pizza commercial.



This Father's Day, give your hard-working dad a break.

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Dress him up

Jeans, various prices and labels, including Versace and Hugo Boss. Available at Shortman Brown's, Canada's retailer serving fashionable gentlemen 5'8" and under. Go to *www.shortmanbrowns.com* for more.

U-Boat watch, retails from $1,750 to $5,150. Available at Jacflash, 1036 Queen St. W., *www.jacflash.net*.

Blue bamboo shirt, left, and golf shirt by George, both $14.96. Available at Wal-Mart, *www.walmart.ca*.

Nirvana sandal, $130, left, and California loafer, $225, below. Both by ECCO. For more, visit *www.ecco.com*.

DEADLINE TONIGHT!

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Tim Hortons gift card, various denominations. Available at Tim Hortons locations across Canada.

Silver army man cufflinks, by Kathryn Dieroff, $120. Available at Made You Look Accessories, 1273 Queen St. W., 416-516-9595. Or order online at *www.madeyoulook.ca*.

Molson vintage T-shirts, from $20-$25 plus taxes. Ships — $10 plus taxes — to anywhere in Canada. To order, go to *www.shopmolson.com*.

"Dad" money clip in sterling silver, $125. Available at Tiffany & Co., *www.tiffany.ca*.

Eat My Words cupcake with Titleist Pro VI golf ball, $10. Other cupcakes also available ($6 per cupcake, $63 for a treat box of 10). The profits from all Eat My Words treats go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Available at Sherway Gardens on Saturday, June 14, and at *www.eatmywords.org* or 416-489-7700.

Pampering products

Braun Pulsonic electric razor, $279.99-$339.99. Available at department /specialty and mass merchandisers.

Lacoste Essential Collector's Edition, $83 for 126 ml. Available at The Bay, *www.hbc.com*.

Dermalogica products, ranging in price from $70-$84. All available at Ritual 2, 787 King St. W. Or treat him to a Ritual MANicure, $25, or the Men's Ritual Face Treatment, $70. For details, go to *www.ritual.ca*.

The Real Shaving Company products, ranging in price from $9-$11.25. Available exclusively at Shoppers Drug Mart, *www.shoppersdrugmart.ca*.

The Burt's Bees Natural Skin Care For Men Collection, ranging in price from $8-$44. Available at drug, grocery, health and natural stores across Canada, *www.burtsbees.ca*.

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Thursday, June 12, 2008

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» 34

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Making your own mark

Chalkboard vases from LBK Studio.

JEREMY HILDEBRANT/AMANA

Above, the Amana Jot Dry-Erase refrigerator.

RUST-OLEUM CORPORATION

Above, Rust-Oleum's Specialty Chalkboard Tint Base, which can be tinted in a variety of colours. Right, a project incorporating the paint.

Above, a design-your-own plate, and right, a design-your-own pillow, both by Freddy & Ma.

Customizable décor doesn't require DIY skills

We spend a lot of time picking home accents to show our individual style, and yet a living room, kitchen or bedroom can still end up feeling like a catalogue.

The popularity of do-it-yourself projects is now extending to home furnishings that shake that mass-produced feeling. Now you can make a mural, design your own cushions or create your own piece of functional art — all without a crafty bone in your body.

New York-based Freddy & Ma recently introduced plates that consumers can design on the company's website, and a line of customizable pillows that can be made in hundreds of prints with the click of a mouse.

Laura Kramer's chalkboard vases for LBK Studio allow anyone to create a personal design or special message. "It was a reaction to the mass-produced, outsourced furnishings that I think create a cold environment," Kramer said.

Rust-Oleum has taken the chalkboard concept to larger surfaces with its Specialty Chalkboard Tint Base, a type of paint that turns surfaces into a chalkboard, while Whirlpool Corp. introduced another idea: A fridge that acts as a white board with a dry-erase finish.

Or if you prefer a kit, Chicago-based retailer Chiasso offers accessories that can be mixed and matched at home, such as the Blocks Clock that comes with a silver clock and 12 coloured blocks for adhering on the wall one-by-one.

Customizable home furnishings are not for everyone, says Freddy&Ma's Anthony Pigliacampo, but "there are a lot of people, like us, who aspire to have their living space be unique, different and inspiring."

» Chalkboard vases, LBK Studio and ornaments, *www.lbkstudio.com*.

» Time Square Clock, Urban Materials + Accessories, *www.iloveuma.com*.

» Amana Jot refrigerator, Whirlpool Corp., *amana.com*.

» Customizable pillows and melamine plates, Freddy & Ma, *www.freddyandma.com*.

» Cardboard Safari, W Hotels Store, *whotelsthestore.com*.

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Condos strong but housing starts down

Builders blame economic uncertainty

Developers are seeing fewer people at their model homes and the Ontario Home Builders' Association said yesterday that the province's uncertain economic prospects are likely to blame.

"The general economic slowdown and declining consumer confidence in Ontario is starting to be felt by home builders, who are reporting slower traffic," OHBA president Mark Basciano said yesterday.

"If consumers aren't confident about their jobs or their investments they aren't likely to be looking to purchase a new home."

While Canadian housing starts were up by 3.5 per cent nationally to a seasonally adjusted and annualized 221,300 units, Ontario was the lone province that saw a decline in May, according to figures released by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. yesterday.

Starts slipped by 7.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted 67,600 units.

"A slowing economy, rising mortgage carrying costs and more balanced resale markets will dampen the pace of new home construction through 2008," CMHC economist Ted Tsiakopoulos said. In the Toronto area, which accounts for more than half the provincial total, starts were down 3.3 per cent to 36,800 units.

The downswing was mostly due to a decline in the more expensive single detached home starts, the CMHC said.

"Rising house prices continue to shift demand away from single detached homes towards less expensive condominum apartments," said CMHC senior market analyst Dana Senagama.

Thanks to record sales of condominiums in 2007, housing starts are still up by 33 per cent on an unadjusted year-to-date basis in the Toronto area.

A solid gain of 24 per cent for building permits in the Toronto area for April attributable to condominium sales should also ensure starts for highrise buildings remain strong this year. "A backlog of apartment sales commencing construction will keep starts elevated this year," said Tsiakopoulos. But those numbers are being tempered by a slowdown in the detached home segment — which most buyers have traditionally preferred.

Last year, for the first time, condominiums edged out houses for a greater than 50 per cent share of the Toronto new home market.

Builders don't sound worried about housing starts for this year, which are cruising on momentum from 2007. But the outlook for next year appears less certain.

"We are cautiously optimistic for the remainder of 2008, however 2009 and 2010 will be a concern for home builders if the overall provincial economy doesn't show signs of improvement," Basciano said.

Manufacturing in Ontario has been hit hard, especially the auto industry.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

by the numbers

» U.S. housing starts were down 29 per cent in the first five months of 2008, compared with 0.7 per cent in Canada.

If it's good for you and ergonomic, you can sleep on it

This month, IKEA will be changing their entire range of quilts and pillows as well as introducing a whole new range of advanced foam and latex mattresses in addition to the existing range of spring mattresses. IKEA has worked in close collaboration with doctors and researchers to identify exactly how people sleep and what qualities will give them the ultimate in comfort, resulting in a whole new way of looking at sleep comfort.

IKEA PHOTO

Gosa Syren standard pillow for back sleeper, $13.99 at IKEA.

"The health benefits associated with a good night's sleep are undeniable and the key to a good night's sleep is comfort." says Madeleine Lowenborg-Frick, Public Relations Manager, IKEA Canada.

"Over the last three years, IKEA has made a large investment in mattresses, more than doubling the range, ensuring that we offer our customers a quality range of mattresses to suit their individual sleep preferences.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association supports the quality of our mattress range, officially recognizing three IKEA mattresses." The new range of mattresses at IKEA is an advancement in sleep technology. Although spring mattresses are still the preferred choice in North America, there are many health benefits to choosing a foam or latex mattress.

The benefits of foam and latex mattresses have long been misunderstood and overlooked. Latex is the perfect choice for allergy sufferers. Latex is naturally hypoallergenic as it is dust-mite resistant. Foam is a soft and supple mattress material that provides stable comfort and absorbs the shock of body movements, providing a restful and uninterrupted sleep.

Both Foam and Latex can also provide a customized level of support not offered by spring mattresses.

IKEA has determined that to maximize comfort and support, it is critical to cut foam and latex into varying pieces to create comfort zones that properly support the different pressure points such as the shoulders and hips.

The way a person sleeps determines the kind of pillow they sleep best on, because people sleep most comfortably when the muscles in their head and neck are totally relaxed. "IKEA has redefined ergonomic," says Lowenborg-Frick.

"This description is no longer reserved for the wave-shaped pillow. We now consider all IKEA pillows to be ergonomic, as each pillow's height has been tailored to provide the right level for a particular sleep preference; back, stomach or side."

The new IKEA range of quilts offers several different and new materials that help regulate temperature, wick moisture away and maintain a comfortable microclimate between the sheets.

A new warmth rating system also helps people identify the best quilt for their personal sleep preferences. A comfortably warm quilt contributes to a good night's sleep and to waking up feeling rested.

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Canadian Gardening

ECOSOURCE HOME AND GARDEN

clippings

Many gardeners have a love-hate relationship with plastic planters because their convenience comes at a cost. The production process releases harmful CO2 into the environment and the containers the plants are sold in are often non-recyclable. New greenPots offers stylish, eco-friendly planters made from grain by-products. These weather-resistant pots will last an average of five years indoors or out before biodegrading in compost or landfill. The pots, available in six colours and various shapes and sizes, come with a matching saucer. From $7. BBBlooms, St. Catharines, Ont.; 905-682-5525.

hot link

GREATSUNFLOWER.ORG

There's plenty of buzz about the Great Sunflower Project, which aims to record the number of bees visiting patches of sunflowers around the world in an effort to understand where and how these essential pollinators may need help. Join now: Plant your sunflower seeds and submit counts (online or by mail) of bees visiting your backyard this summer.

Tiny ponds for city folks

Container water gardens are at home even in small spaces

by **MIKE LASCELLE**
contributing writer

Can you enjoy the visual beauty and soothing sounds of water without digging a hole for a pond?

The answer is yes, and the solution is simple: Take any waterproof container, fill it with water and allow the chlorine to dissipate (for 24 hours, or use a chemical de-chlorinator). Then add some small potted aquatic plants and floaters such as Salvinia or water fern (Azolla) and you've got your own portable pond.

GRANT FAINT/PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHOICE

A lotus grows in a colourful pot.

These water features can go just about anywhere — your patio, deck or balcony — and tinier ones can be transformed into tabletop centrepieces. Imagine the dramatic foliage of papyrus (Cyperus papyrus), taro (Colocasia) or spiral rush (Juncus effusus "Spiralis") sitting next to your summer flowerbeds.

With these diminutive water gardens, otherwise invasive ornamentals such as Houttuynia cordata "Chameleon" and golden creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia "Aurea") become handsome, contained marginal specimens; for herb enthusiasts, there's even aquatic mint (Mentha aquatica).

Local water plant suppliers have done a great job responding to the need for smaller-scale stock by packaging specimens in ready-to-plant plastic mesh baskets. Caring for these containerized plants means simply removing any dead foliage, dividing or repotting as necessary, and feeding them in spring by pushing a compressed aquatic fertilizer tablet (such as 10-14-8) into the soil.

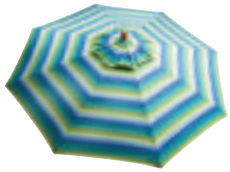
The exception here would be water lilies (Nymphaea), which bloom best with a monthly feeding from May to July. A few dwarf or pygmy water lily cultivars to consider for water bowls are "Pygmaea Helvola" (pale yellow), "Perry's Baby Red" (rich garnet) and "Joanne Pring" (deep pink).

SMALL SCALE Plants to suit container water gardens

WWW.PONDEXPERTS.CA

Top picks for tiny water gardens include, from left, miniature lotus (Nelumbo "Momo Botan"), aquatic mint (Mentha aquatica), spiral rush (Juncus effusus "Spiralis"), dwarf waterlily (Nymphaea "Perry's Baby Red") and papyrus (Cyperus papyrus "Little Giant"). All are available at Hydrosphere Water Gardens & Fisheries, *www.pondexperts.ca*, 905-715-2447.

hort couture Take cover with your pick of colourful patio umbrellas

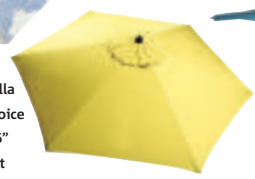


Above, wooden market umbrella from Fresh Home & Garden in Sunbrella's blue cabana stripe fabric, 9' dia., 8' h, $620. Call 416-367-3906 to order.

Below, Home Studio umbrella from Home Outfitters (also available in green), 9' dia., 9' h, $60. See *homeoutfitters.com* for store locator.

HOME OUTFITTERS

Right, beach umbrella from President's Choice Home Collection, 96" dia., 95" h, $25. Visit *pc.ca* for retailers.



Left, Hauser's manual tilt umbrella, shown in Island Bay Sand Dune fabric, 7' dia., 103" h, $319. Call 800-268-7328 or visit *hauserstores.com*.

TROPITONE

The aluminum Silhouette model comes in 200 fabrics and 16 frame finishes, from Tropitone, 9' dia., 98" h, $1,199 to $1,799 (depending on fabric). For retailers visit *tropitone.com*.

PHOTOS: ROGER YIP

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Grilling safely

Attempt to avoid sacrificing yourself to the fire gods

Whether your barbecue uses charcoal, wood, propane or natural gas, don't even think about firing it up until you are sure it's safe.

For wood-burning units, make certain that vents are clean and operable and that there are no areas that have rusted through. Embers can wreak havoc with a nearby wood pile or even your home.

A barbecue that is in disrepair is dangerous at best. So take these precautions before grilling:

» Thoroughly clean your grill each season. Grease buildup can cause a fire that cannot be easily extinguished.

» Keep your grill at least three metres away from your home or other combustible surfaces.

» Don't barbecue indoors, including in a garage. You can literally suffocate every living thing in your home.

» Don't barbecue on a wood deck if there is a chance that dry grass is growing beneath it. You can start a fire that can't be easily extinguished.

» Never use a propane barbecue grill on a balcony, terrace or roof. It is both dangerous and illegal in many areas.

» Keep children away from the grill.

» It may sound silly, but a nearby garden hose (or a fire extinguisher) is a must.

» Rotted wooden handles, a bad thermostat and frayed rotisserie wiring should all be repaired or replaced.

COOKING WITH GAS

Gas grills require even more attention. Be sure to inspect the venturi (near the gas control valve). For some reason spiders are attracted to the supply tubes. They can nest in the tiniest places.

» Each season we disassemble the gas lines between the shut-off valve and the burners. Everything is scrubbed with soap and water and blown out using a high pressure air nozzle (this requires a compressor), so be prepared to make a trip to your local gas station if you don't have one.

» The burners themselves need to be wire brushed and all of those little tiny holes need to be free of obstructions.

» Check and secure all gas connections. A leak can be fatal. Soapy water sprayed onto each connection and fitting will reveal an unwanted leak.

START YOUR GRILLS

Once your barbecue is up and running, follow a few rules to a safer and more pleasant experience:

» Don't use gasoline or paint thinner to start your fire. You may lose a substantial amount of hair in the process.

» Alcoholic beverages can be as flammable as paint thinner — some even more so. Leave your cocktail glass on the table in the kitchen.

» Use starter fluid sensibly. Apply it to the coals and then light your fire. Don't stand next to the fire and squirt lighter fluid onto the flames.

» Don't wear loose clothing when barbecuing unless you are set on sacrificing yourself to the fire gods.

» When using a gas grill NEVER turn the gas on with the lid closed. An accumulation of gas can result in a horrendous explosion.

» On the Net: *onthehouse.com*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbecues seem to get sleeker and sexier every year, but don't forget that safety comes first. Shown here, a grill from President's Choice's new range of barbecues, between $299-$799.

... And now for the fun stuff

Dads love barbecue — sounds simple, right? While that may be true, equally true is the fact that no two fathers, husbands or boyfriends are the same.

And tapping into this idea, President's Choice Summer Insider's Report offers Metro a guide to the best accessories to your barbecue — the food. These products are available at Loblaws, no frills and Valu-mart, to name a few. Happy Father's Day and happy grilling!

gourmand dad

» This experienced and passionate chef needs to be impressed. Try the Bombay Burger: Grill (the health-conscious) PC Blue Menu Thick & Juicy Lean Beef Burgers ($7.99), place on an open bun and top with slices of fresh mango, juicy red onion, hot peppers and coriander leaves. Finish with raita spread on the bun.

macho dad

» The tough guy dad needs a hearty burger he can really sink his teeth into, so check out PC's new Gigantico Thick & Juicy Beef Burgers ($7.99), boasting a mouthwatering ½ pound of beef.

activist dad

» Try making your activist dad a PC Blue Menu Thick & Juicy Wild Pacific Salmon Burger ($6.99) — they've got Marine Stewardship Council's approval, the assurance of sustainable fishing practices.

smokin' hot dad

» This is hot'n'spicy dad likes little extra 'kick' to hiss life by pairing new PC's Memories of Portugal Piri Piri Barbecue Sauce ($2.50), glazed over PC Air Chilled Chicken Breasts. For dessert, treat your smokin' dad to PC Chipotle Ranch dip with fresh carrots, cucumbers and celery. This healthy snack will let him spice it up while maintaining that sexy washboard stomach.

urbane dad

» The city-dwelling dad has decidedly worldly tastes, thanks to having diverse cuisines at his fingertips. He wants something a little different on his barbecue, so try PC Memories of Korean Barbecue Grilling & Glazing sauce ($2.50) when you grill up some ribs.

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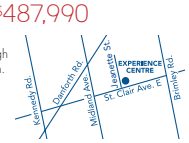

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Topping off your toilet with a bidet

ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER & TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

The design team discussed the curious but highly practical bidet a month ago — and there were a lot of questions and a lot of interest.

We hope this column clarifies some of your questions. There are different kinds of bidets — we discussed the elegant stand-alone unit, which requires extra space and plumbing and tends to be regarded as "high end". But many people without room or the desire to redo the plumbing in their bathrooms asked us about the toilet seat-type bidet. The toilet seat bidet is just what it sounds like — it is mounted on top of a conventional toilet like a larger-than-usual toilet seat. And it does exactly what a bidet is supposed to do — it cleans your posterior parts with soothing water (rather than subjecting them to the repeated and sometimes irritating scrubs with toilet paper or washcloths).

We've got to admit this — from a design point of view, we don't like a toilet-top bidet that looks too bulky and too "high-tech". Please keep sleek and streamlined in mind — the last thing you want in a bathroom is a complicated and overly technical-looking piece of equipment, especially on a toilet.

That being said, we cannot deny that the toilet-seat bidet has unbeatable practical advantages. For instance, it takes virtually no room. Once installed, it simply makes the existing toilet a little taller in the back. And it hooks up to the existing toilet, so not much extra plumbing is involved. In addition, the toilet seat bidets are easy to install and come off easily for cleaning. How persuasive is that?

The bidet toilet seat also has the advantage of being used in the same way a toilet is used — users sit on the toilet in the usual way and operate controls to turn on a water spray. So users with limited mobility may find the toilet-top bidet easier to use than a stand-alone unit, since they do not have to move themselves from the toilet, face the wall, and straddle the stand-alone — a task that takes considerable physical dexterity.

"There is no squatting (with a toilet-top bidet)— easier for those with sore knees," notes Rita Van Dyke, sales consultant with Burnaby-based BC Plumbing.

The other amazing thing about the toilet seat bidet is the frankly astonishing range of features that are available — and these can range from necessary to quite luxurious. With a remote control, you can control water temperature and intensity, but you can also choose pulsating sprays, decide on various directional (front or rear cleansing) or massaging sprays, blow-drying, whether or not you would like a heated seat — all wonderful possibilities.

BRONDELL PHOTO

Toilet seat-type bidets, like this Brondell Swash 800, are a good way to save space in a bathroom.

And to reassure you in case you had worries about hygiene, the water sprayed at your bottom from a toilet-seat bidet comes out of a small retractable hose which tucks back into the unit after the spraying is complete. The hose end does not touch any surfaces or body parts. (All the same, it should be cleaned once a month or so, by gently pulling it out of its housing, and brushing it with a soft brush, says Van Dyke.)

She notes that prices for the stand-alone bidet and the toilet-top bidet are about the same — ranging from $650 to $850 on the average.

But the bidet faucets on a stand-alone unit (a toilet-top unit has no faucets) can jack up the cost considerably — these can range as high as $945 for solid brass, to $500 for brushed nickel or chrome.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network. Tammy is an interior decorator. Jeffrey designs home furnishings and bedding through his company Jeffrey Fisher Home.

The 500

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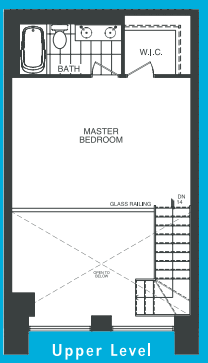
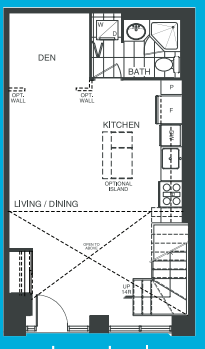


Upper Level



Lower Level

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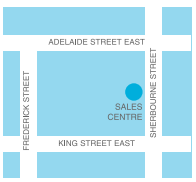

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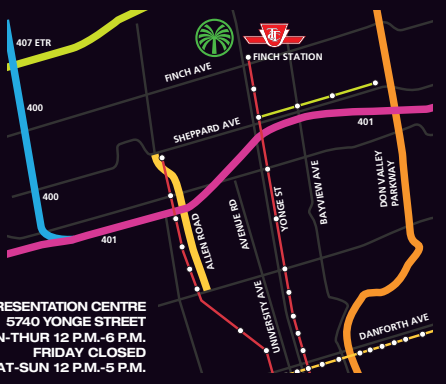

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Rock stars in home decor

Pebble and stone motifs add earth tones to interiors

We've all toted home an interesting stone or two from a good walk. We appreciate the eons it took to shape them; we admire the composition, the shading. But the cosiness?

Today's rocks — or close facsimiles — are getting all warm and fuzzy. Perhaps as a nod to environmental interest, designers and retailers are adding pebble and rock motifs to their home collections. Accessories, rugs, wall coverings and even lamps are fashioned from the real thing, or so cleverly imitative that you have to touch them to know the difference.

Gigantic, soft floor pebbles are an inspired alternative to the family room floor cushion.

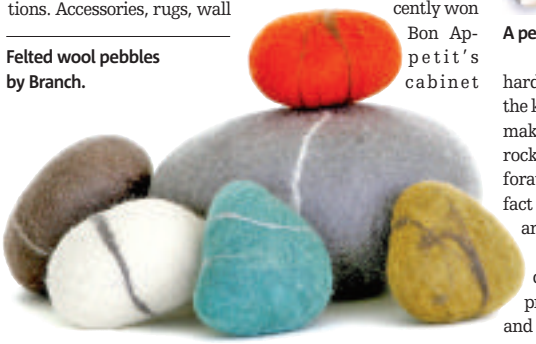
Or wrap a wall in a stone-printed paper, or cover bathroom walls with squares of natural pebbles. There are luminescent boulders for indoors or out, and stacked rock lamps, each one unique.

Thomas Ward of Stepping Stones Studio in Idaho recently won Bon Appetit's cabinet hardware competition with the knobs, pulls and lamps he makes from glacial and river rocks he finds on canoeing forays. He's mindful of the fact that most of his clientele are city-dwellers.

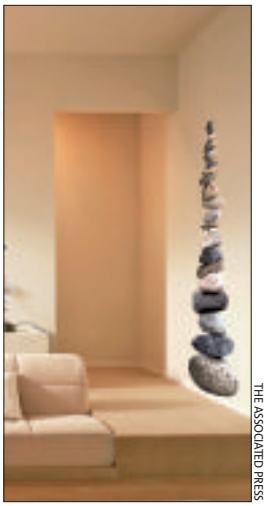
"Every stone I place is done in a way that will present its natural beauty and dignity to people who've been separated from nature," he says.

Perhaps that's what speaks to our fascination with rocks and pebbles; they've been around a good long while. They have stories to tell. And in uncertain times, sharing our space with a little terra firma seems oddly comforting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Felted wool pebbles by Branch.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pebble floor mat in beachstone and slate by Chiasso, above, and Plage Rock Cairn wall decals.

designs on the net

» Merino wool rocks designed by South African Ronel Jordaan are hand dyed, carded and felted by women in a successful job creation program, *www.besweetproducts.com*

» Livingstones wool "rocks", *www.smarin.net*

» Pebbles Rug and pebble floor mat, *www.chiasso.com*

» Plage Rock Cairn wall decals,*www.acaciacatalog.com*

» Skipping Stones Studio's stone lamp and doorknobs, *www.stonehardware.com*

» Moss rocks, *www.zgallerie.com*

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Monarch

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Amity: The newest jewel of York Region

Located in a distinctive and highly praised neighbourhood in Richmond Hill, Fairgate Homes is proud to present the newest jewel of York Region — Amity.

This private exclusive enclave offers a tempting array of homes on two quiet cul-de-sacs.

Fairgate's attention to architectural excellence has resulted in a collection of inspired two-storey home designs ranging from 2,508 to 3,401 square feet on large pie-shaped traditional lots.

There are seven models to choose from, each with unique floor plans perfect for everyone's needs.

The distinctive exterior finishes, including clay brick, stone and stucco accents, are incorporated in an architecturally controlled elevation to ensure an aesthetically pleasing streetscape. The beautiful interior appointments include nine-foot ceilings, gourmet kitchens, crown moulding, valance trim, butler's pantries, great rooms, main floor dens, spacious masters with sumptuous ensuites, plus all bedrooms have shared or private ensuites.

Fairgate's motto of "Better Build to Standard" is reflected in its standard features of hardwood flooring throughout the main floor and upper hallway, granite kitchen countertops, taller upper kitchen cabinetry, decorative columns, an elegant main floor oak staircase, maintenance-free vinyl casement windows, Berber carpet in the bedrooms and 200 amp service, all included with your purchase.

Customize your new dream home with a qualified design consultant in Fairgate's fabulous new Décor Centre where you will discover a wide variety of superior quality brand name products such as Moen Showhouse faucets, GE Appliance packages, Hunter Douglas blinds and Energy Star packages.

This coveted neighbourhood enjoys all the advantages of established community living. It is surrounded by a host of world-class amenities with shopping and recreation facilities, private and public schools as well as easy access to major highways like Highway 404, Highway 407 and Highway 7.

For downtown commuters, the GO station is located just minutes away, south of Major Mackenzie.

Fairgate Homes is known for its standard of excellence and has been creating outstanding communities providing quality homes to satisfied customers for more than 25 years.

The exceptional attention to detail and personal service ensures quality and value.

Chose Fairgate for all the right reasons and your new dream home will be waiting for you this fall.

Closing dates are scheduled to start in October 2008. Come explore the exciting models by calling 905-640-8088 or toll-free at 1-877-642-1600.

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» You can visit the builder's on the web at *www.fairgatehomes.com* to explore the numerous other communities Fairgate Homes has to offer.

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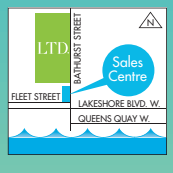

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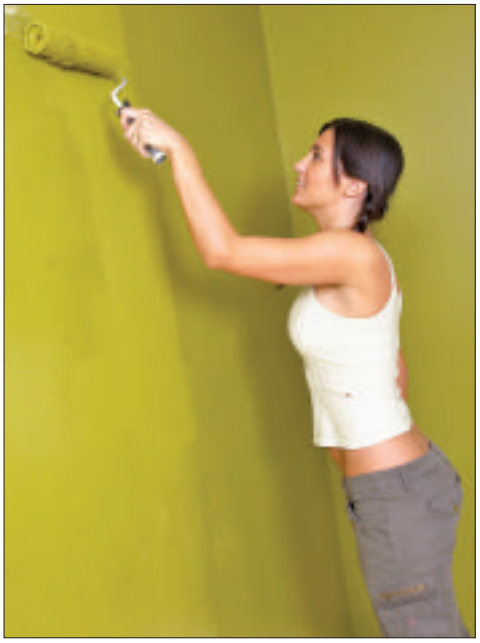
Beat the heat

Health factors are important in summer renos

As summer temperatures begin to sizzle, home improvement tasks become particularly challenging. Take these precautions when working in hot weather to protect your health and get better results.



Be sure your air conditioning is fully on when painting indoors during the summer. If it's an outside job you are working on, do not paint in temperatures that exceed 26° C.

KEEP YOUR COOL

Working in a hot environment puts stress on the body's cooling system. When heat is combined with other stresses — like hard physical work, loss of fluids, or fatigue — it may lead to heat-related illness or even death.

Water is crucial to helping the body adjust to high temperatures. The rate of water intake must equal the increased rate of water loss by perspiration to keep body temperature normal. When it's hot, drink plenty of water.

And don't push yourself beyond your limits. It could be harmful to your health, and could put you at increased risk of having an accident.

PAINT A MASTERPIECE

Your painting project can turn into a disaster if air temperatures are too hot or humid.

Most exterior paint is formulated to perform best when applied at temperatures between 10 C and 26 C.

Any hotter, and the proper formation of the paint film can be seriously affected. Pinholing (tiny surface craters) can occur during application, and direct sun on fresh paint can cause the film to blister.

In addition, when the temperature of the surface is above 26 C, it can significantly affect the dry and cure process and prevent proper film formation of the paint. Lap marks may result when the coating is applied to a hot surface.

Wait until cool evening hours, or when working indoors, be sure your air conditioner is kicked into gear.

CEMENT THE DEAL

Concrete is also affected by temperature — too hot and it dries with cracks; too cold and it takes forever to set.

Most small concrete projects should be poured when temperatures are between 15 C and 32 C.

As a result, the concrete will begin to set in a reasonable time but not before you have a chance to touch it up.

Wet down all forms and substrate just before you pour in the concrete.

This will reduce the rate of evaporation of the moisture in the concrete mix.

Avoid adding water to the mixture because it will lower the strength, increase cracking and reduce durability.

Limit the time between placing the concrete and final finishing.

Use a fog-type spray nozzle to maintain surface moisture and to prevent evaporating away the "bleed" water out of the concrete mix before it can be troweled smooth.

As soon as the concrete is finished, begin a moist cure by keeping the finished surfaces damp for a few days.

On extremely hot or windy days, it may be best to reschedule the pour for a day with more favourable conditions.

KEEP GARDENS GREEN

Avoid mowing your lawn too close during the summer months. Always keep grass 2.5 centimetres above normal during hot weather to avoid "burning" the grass. A nice soaking immediately after you mow will help revive your lawn.

Avoid watering your lawn and plants too late in the evening. Watering at night can encourage diseases that can threaten the appearance of your plants and lawn.

Keep potted plants well watered to prevent wilting. On particularly warm days, a saucer full of water underneath the pot will help plants thrive in scorching heat. And avoid severe pruning of hedges and shrubs during hot spells.

This can cause browning at the top and sides where trimming was done.

For more home improvement tips and information, visit *onthehouse.com*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

be aware

» Individuals over age 40 need to take extra care when the weather is hot, because their ability to sweat declines as they age. However, heat stress can also affect individuals who are young and fit.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Walking the Walk at Chicory in St. Catharines

Mason Homes is taking green building to a new level with its first project in the city of St. Catharines.

Featuring a stunning collection of townhomes, bungalows and two-storey homes on 32-, 35- and 40-foot lots, Chicory Walk is perfect for first-time homebuyers, established families and empty-nesters.

Located in the heart of downtown St. Catharines, Chicory Walk has been designed with the utmost care to offer residents family friendly streets and beautiful architecturally controlled streetscapes.

Just one of the many unique features found in this project is the Green for Life brand. Mason Homes, already well-known for its immense dedication to the environment and a leader in green building, builds EnergyStar® qualified homes as a standard — not an upgrade — because the company believes a happier, healthier home should be available to everyone. The buyers at Chicory Walk are no exception.

"It is more efficient," explains Sean Mason when asked about the homes at Chicory Walk. "More efficient heating, more efficient cooling, better building envelope, better indoor air quality, better use of resources and it's also water-efficient. Water-efficient toilets, fixtures, faucets … and you also get a rain barrel.

"It's the most advanced standard building program in Ontario of any production builder that I know. It's a really wonderful community."

Advanced truly is the word to describe this project. From the outside, you would see a traditional, almost antique-looking village community set on a quiet loop road. But take a step inside and you'll experience an entirely different, modern home.

"We also have our interior lifestyle themes," Mason says.

"You can customize your home with a choice of four different packages: Town & Country, Modern, Classic or the Standard. It's really good, it's really different … it's the most different residential community out there right now."

A total of 60 homes will be built, including 14 townhomes and 46 open lots that allow purchasers to choose between a bungalow and a two-storey design — whatever best suits their needs and wants. The 32-foot lots come with a one-car attached garage, while the 35-foot lots have an optional two-car detached garage in the backyard in reminiscence of classic home designs.

This bright and colourful site will consist of homes in three different styles – Arts & Crafts, Colonial and Victorian — with smaller designs than most seen today.

"The homes are affordable, they're not overly big. Lots of people like that," Mason says.

"People's wallets are tired of buying 2,400 square feet when they only need 1,600. But a lot of builders are not offering smaller homes.

"Everyone's got a 40- or 50-foot lot and they max out the size of the home on that … people don't want homes that large anymore, especially with the energy costs dramatically increasing."

The community has already attracted a nice mix of younger families, as well as retired homebuyers looking to settle down. The affordability of these homes, as well as the location, allows buyers of all ages to enjoy an energy efficient home without blowing their budgets. Prices start at just $164,999 for a townhome, and top off at $258,999 for a 1,651-square-foot two-storey home on a 35-foot lot.

Plus, for a limited time, each new purchaser will receive a choice of an Energy Star Appliance Package or a Design Credit of $2,000.

St. Catharines embodies the advantages of big-city life and small-town friendliness. With the Niagara Escarpment as its backdrop, this valley town enjoys a more moderate climate than most in Canada. The summers aren't quite as hot, the winters are less severe and the snow accumulation is significantly less than areas just minutes away.

At just an hour's commute to Toronto along the Q.E.W., St. Catharines is a commuter's haven and a natural place to call home. A wide array of schools, churches and cultural groups, as well as a number of parades and festivals, make St. Catharines a pleasure to live in.

Brock University is a city unto itself in St. Catharines, while the charming nearby town of Port Dalhousie is a magnet for young people during the summer months thanks to its beaches, boutiques and bars.

for more information

» The Chicory Walk sales office is located at 340 Ontario St. in St. Catharines. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

» Call 1-877-MASON-10 or visit *www.masonhomes.ca/chicorywalk*.

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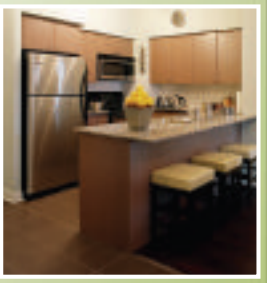

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Your house doesn't need a guide

Don't be home when potential buyers visit

THE HUNT
AMIT PAUL
amitp@rogers.com

It seems this gorgeous weather has had an interesting effect on more than a few people.

It seems more and more people are staying home during the weekends, which also means they're home when buyers come to view their property for sale.

It's not a stretch to assume these ridiculous gas prices have something to do with it.

And since it doesn't seem like those gas prices will be coming down anytime soon, I thought it would be a good idea to offer some tips to sellers who are tempted to be home during showings.

The first and most honest piece of advice I can offer is, don't be home!

Buyers simply feel more at ease and less rushed when the owner of the home is not there.

I can't tell you how many times I've shown a perfectly suitable property to a buyer, but the fact they were rushed made them completely forget the home altogether.

When the owner is not home, the buyers are free to speak openly with each other about what they like and what they don't like, and they're able to take their time making notes on the same.

They're also able to freely picture themselves living there.

Let me put it this way — you being home to show your property will never, ever be the deciding factor in making a buyer love your home but can certainly be one in making them decide against it.

Even if they like the home, they won't want to seem too interested.

I understand and appreciate that many owners wish to be home so they can ensure no strangers cross any boundaries while visiting.

It's a valid concern and one I cannot dismiss.

I can, however, suggest ensuring that all your valuables are perhaps placed in a bank, safe, or some other secure location.

Some sellers I've spoken to proudly suggest they're happy to personally oversee each and every viewing.

Once I explain the dynamics of showing properties, and the psychology behind it, normally, they'll quickly see the light.

I can tell you from personal experience on numerous occasions there's nothing that turns a buyer off faster than an overzealous host.

Think about it.

Do you really need someone pointing out where the kitchen is and where the bathroom is?

What are they afraid of?

That the buyer may accidentally store their food behind the mirror and relieve themselves in the sink?

The other reason owners like being home is to personally illustrate just how special and unique their home is and point out the nickels and dimes spent on desirable upgrades.

The problem with this strategy is an obvious one. Buyers believe — rightfully so — that no one will highlight the good and bury the bad as much as the owner.

So by trying to sell the prospective buyer, you're effectively pushing them right into another location.

Let your home sell itself. If it really is as desirable as you believe, it needs no explanation.

If it isn't, you're not going to convince anyone otherwise and it's best the buyers see it for the modest yet still attractive dwelling that it really is.

Chances are if you're selling a home, you're buying one as well — or at least you've bought one in the past.

Think about the kind of home viewing experience you enjoy the most and do your best to create that for your buyers.

While the art of properly marketing and selling your home extends far beyond this one specific matter, the trap of not selling it best can often be traced back here.

Feel free to e-mail Amit at amitp@rogers.com. Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max.

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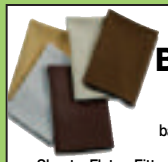

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entertainment

Katherine Heigl, left, will star in and produce the movie adaptation of Escape, Carolyn Jessop's memoir about living in a polygamist sect. EW.COM

Dirty little Wet Secrets

Edmonton group blends zany lyrics with dance rock

By **BRIAN COULTON**
for Metro Toronto

PHOTO COURTESY SIX SHOOTER RECORDS

The Wet Secrets' album Rock Fantasy is a mix of humorous lyrics and energetic dance rock.

A small, unsuspecting prairie town sits quiet. The clichéd tumbleweed rolls by. Suddenly, movement is seen in the distance. It's people — fifty of them. They're wearing marching band uniforms, promenading down the main strip in single file. Some play instruments, some wave flags and twirl batons while others pull little red wagons holding powered amps. But, before the town knows what's hit them, the procession has marched out the other side of town, boarded a bus and is gone.

That's The Wet Secrets' rock fantasy.

"That is really our fantasy: 'Guerilla marching band strikes on unsuspecting small town'," envisions Trevor Anderson, vocalist and drummer for the Edmonton quintet.

Rock Fantasy is also the title of the band's sophomore album; an uproariously commanding record characterized by overtly humorous lyrics and vigorous dance-rock songs.

"We very happily — sometimes to our detriment — shout things that should be kept secret," he says. "There's a strange amount of innocence in it. It's not dark. It's maybe dirty but light. Dirty light — that's us."

Wet Secrets live

» The Wet Secrets play the Horseshoe Tavern tonight as part of North By Northeast. For festival details visit *nxne.com*.

They almost have to be light. Busy lives outside The Wet Secrets barely permit them time to focus too heavily on the band's development.

Kim Rackel on tuba and trumpet and Donna Ball on trombone run burlesque troupe, Capital City Burlesque. Lyle Bell does overtime in Shout Out Out Out Out and manages production of Edmonton's Vue Weekly. Keyboardist Doug Organ (check his birth certificate) produces and plays in a number of bands and Anderson doubles as a budding filmmaker.

"It's just hard to get the five of us in a room, let alone a city," says Anderson. It's why he says the band nearly tanked, but diverse offerings are also what grant the band an interesting sound. "I like to think of it as making art out of whatever's in the fridge. Well, I got a piece of that and a bit of that and look — let's call it a salad," he says.

When asked if the band has longevity in them, Anderson jokes, "Oh, I doubt it! It was meant to be a one week prank and it has been pulling us along so far."

But, Anderson says The Wet Secrets are happy fatalists, optimistic about what's to come. "We know if it's meant to be, it will be. There's a certain amount of life that you just have no say in. The more you can embrace that, the more happy accidents can occur."

The Carps fuse punk and soul

By **ROBB MCKAY**
for Metro Toronto

When drum and bass duo The Carps hit the stage at the Mod Club Saturday night the plan is simple.

"We plan to play as hard as humanly possible," singer Jahmal Tonge tells Metro.

The musical collaboration between Tonge and partner Neil White began when they met at a Scarborough church youth group several years ago. Now the pair — whose music is best described as a collision of punk and R&B — is better known for serving up high-energy, sweat-soaked live shows.

"I was brought up on a steady dosage of punk and progressive rock," White explains, "Whereas Jahmal had more of a soul, R&B interest. We started to share these musical tastes and from there, expanded both of our musical interests and horizons."

Those horizons resulted in the release earlier this year of the band's second genre-bending EP Waves and Shambles. The disc is a swirling mash-up of hip hop, new jack swing, dance and rock.

"A lot of it is heavily influenced by analog keyboard sounds," says White, noting that others songs took them, "back to our grunge and duct tape punk days."

Tonge says the band is serious about respecting and emulating the influences they choose to mine. "If you are an artist of integrity, you will allow the great music that has come before you and the great music of your peers to influence your style."

The Carps play the Mod Club Saturday night.

new series

Gossip Girl makers consider spinoff

TV The producers of the drama series Gossip Girl are considering a possible spin-off set at the girls' boarding school, ew.com reports.

The current thinking is to base the series either on Taylor Momsen's character, or on a new character introduced after the show returns for its second season this fall.

In either case, the spinoff is likely to focus on the storyline of Momsen's character, Jenny Humphrey. Humphrey is a self-esteem challenged outsider who faces a series of public embarrassments.

Sex And The City

Fake book inspires real-life search

MOVIES A consumer alert for the millions who have seen the Sex And The City movie — there is no such book as Love Letters of Great Men, which Carrie Bradshaw reads while in bed with Mr. Big, The Canadian Press reports.

The closest thing in the real world apparently is Love Letters of Great Men and Women: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present Day, first released in the 1920s.

Richard Davies, press manager for AbeBooks.com, an online seller that features used titles, said that he has received hundreds of queries about the book's existence.

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Jack Black, left, has dropped out of the comedy Man-Witch, which he was developing with director Todd Phillips and screenwriter Jay Reiss for the past year. It's unclear why the comedian abandoned the project. EW.COM

»news
In Brief

» **PEOPLE** Actor Paul Newman is battling cancer, his business partner said yesterday. Writer A.E. Hotchner, who partnered with Newman to start Newman's Own salad dressing company in the 1980s, said Newman told him about the disease about 18 months ago. He doesn't say what kind of cancer, but said Newman is in treatment.

» **BOOKS** Academy Award-winning actress and Dancing With The Stars sensation Marlee Matlin is working on a memoir, scheduled to come out in 2009 and tentatively titled I'll Scream Later.

» **PEOPLE** Coolio was arrested Tuesday on an outstanding misdemeanour warrant for driving with a suspended licence, Los Angeles police said. The 44-year-old rapper was released roughly five hours after officers pulled over his grey Hummer around 1:45 a.m. in Hollywood. He posted $10,000 US bail. Officers stopped him because the vehicle's registration was expired. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mann crafts characters

Drug addict, has-been inhabit latest album

By ANN-MARIE COLACINO
Metro Toronto

Aimee Mann's new CD @#%&*! Smilers is in stores now.

With her seventh solo album recently released and two decades of success behind her, including an Oscar nod, singer/songwriter Aimee Mann has a lot to smile about.

Just don't ask her to.

She makes it clear she despises this type of request in her new CD title @#%&*! Smilers, which audiences are expected to insert their own curse word into. It's pointed at a phrase Mann and a friend coined to describe people who feel the need to tell others to be more … well, smiley.

The characters in Mann's 13-song pop collection would likely share this sentiment. They include a drug addict, a has-been, an insecure artist and a host of other troubled personalities.

"I think it's a mix of both (real and fictional characters) … there's definitely songs about people I know, but a lot of it is fictional," says Mann about Smilers, released on her own SuperEgos label.

Highly praised for her lyrics (characters and situations in the 1999 movie Magnolia were written based on her songs), Mann's carefully crafted storytelling is often confessional and/or cautionary.

"(Songwriting) is good for the kinds of things that you can't really talk to anybody about and you can barely sort of even explain to yourself. It's a way for your subconscious to kind of communicate with your self," Mann explained.

In synth-pop opener Freeway, the former 'Til Tuesday front woman documents the struggles of a drug-addicted friend.

"I think everybody struggles with obsession to a certain extent because I think it's a mechanism by which people make themselves feel better … It gives you the illusion of control and power."

And while the Los Angeles-based singer stays true to her soulful pop sound, Smilers differs from her other work in its lack of electric guitar. A decision she says was made during recording because "we just didn't need it."

Instead, Mann focuses on keyboard, acoustic guitar and synthesizers.

For instance, the last track, Ballantines, is an almost cabaret-sounding tune, albeit telling the disheartening story of a one-time hot shot now down on his luck.

behind the scenes

» Aimee Mann's best/funniest compliment of all time: A fan at a concert told Mann she was one of her Top 2 favourite lyrists of all time — the other being Sammy Hagar (of Van Halen)!

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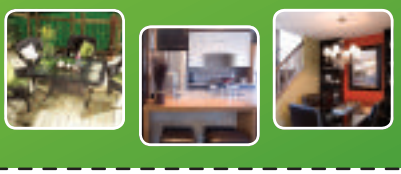

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Is Lego Indiana Jones going to whip you into a frenzy? Is Hot Shots Golf: Open Tee 2 an ace or a bogey? Find out by reading the Game On column, exclusively at *metronews.ca*.

Support local artisans

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nrfrugalista@rogers.com

Crafty Chic in Yorkville

THE FRESHLY renovated **Guild Shop**, showcasing artwork and handcrafted delight by artisans of the **Ontario Craft Council** has just re-opened in Yorkville. Celebrating 70 years in Toronto, the Guild Shop has promoted and supported Canada's leading and emerging craftspeople in a unique retail environment. And while it's a popular tourist stop, it's well worth a visit for locals keen to support local talent as well. Expect to find one-of-a-kind ceramics, textiles, jewelry, hand-blown glass objects, greeting cards, wood, leather, and metal work — another excellent source for handmade gifts or home decor stunners. For a preview of the shop's fine offerings, visit: *www.craft.on.ca/The_Guild_Shop*

The recently renovated Guild Shop just re-opened in Yorkville and showcases artwork and handcrafted delights.

For the Boys (and the Dads)

MARK'S WORK Wearhouse has all kinds of summer-weight button-down shirts, tees, sandals and shorts for men this season and right now a lot of these casual and office-friendly items are priced to move for Father's Day (Sunday) starting at just $14.99. You'll also find quirky gifts such as the digital coin counter bank for the frugal dad ($22) and retro-cool K-Way jackets for sporty dads (now down to $29). While you're there, the spring/summer separates for ladies are also worth a gander — specifically, the well-cut capris and stylish cargo pants ($24–31), plus a selection of whisper-light tops tapered at the waist in bold fashion-forward hues (eg. electric blue, magenta) for $29. Sale ends Sunday! Visit: *www.marks.com*.

Sandal Sale at Old Navy

ALL KINDS of fab deals are yours to behold at **Old Navy** with regular price tags so fair, the sale racks promise lunatic savings. Expect to find tees, PJ sets and cami/undies combos for under $10, plus pretty printed sundresses and skirts priced below $20 and stellar wedge-heeled sandals for just $20 a pair.

Sew Be It's Fashionista Camp

POPULAR DO-it-yourself hub **Sew Be It Studio** has partnered up with The Canadian Stage Company to present a fashion-focused summer camp for style-savvy young people (ages 8 to 14) to be based at the CSC's Wardrobe Shop downtown (26 Berkeley St.) Intimate weekly sessions covering various aspects of machine sewing and design will be offered, including how to use and modify commercial patterns, customizing garments and learning about the key tools of the trade. These hands-on creative workshops, which run Monday to Friday (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.), are project-focused and aimed mainly at beginners as well as intermediate-level sewers. The Fashionista Camp kicks off on July 7, with new sessions beginning each Monday through to August 25. Cost: $395 + GST per session. Students will receive a discount for signing up for more than one session. Visit *www.sewbeitstudio.com*.

Nathalie-Roze Fischer is a designer, writer and DIY enthusiast. Visit her online at www.nathalie-roze.com.

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CALL IT RESEARCH: As everyone knows, actress Tatum O'Neal was caught up in a drug bust earlier this month, busted on New York's Lower East Side buying cocaine during what she calls a downward emotional spiral after the death of her dog. It's another troubled chapter in the life of the daughter of actor Ryan O'Neal and actress Joanna Cook Moore. In a piece in Entertainment Weekly just after her arrest she tried to explain her motives, adding that she's estranged from her father, and that her mother died of her addiction. (Moore, a heavy smoker, died of lung cancer in 1997.)

That O'Neal is sticking to the addict's script is fairly obvious, so it comes as no surprise to hear that Denis Leary is fully supportive of his fellow Rescue Me cast member. O'Neal plays the sister of Leary's character on the show — an alcoholic like her brother, with a little porn addiction on the side and the sort of emotional history that would even make friends think twice before trying to fix her up with someone they know.

"Tatum shot a couple of episodes before her recent trouble," Leary told the National Ledger this week, "and she has a lot of other segments she'll do — it doesn't matter to me when and how she comes back. I love her. She's great."

Leary calls the bust "a lucky break for her," since it "kept her from doing whatever damage she would have done to herself." It also adds an extra layer of verisimilitude to the show, which has been pushing the limits of dark comedy since it debuted on FX almost four years ago; with O'Neal, the show has landed itself in some swampy region between method acting and reality TV.

SPECIAL GUESTS: "Stunt-casting" is just one of the ways in which prime time has been spicing itself up lately, poaching the more sordid parts of the tabloid marquee for ratings-grabbing guest shots, as well as getting movie stars, actors with featured parts on other shows, and the occasional wily casting in-joke, to turn every week into "a very special episode."

It's become so common that Seth Green, late of Buffy and currently of Robot Chicken fame, was forced to wonder aloud to the Hollywood Reporter that he's only now gotten around to making an appearance on My Name Is Earl, a show that has, so far, featured spots by Paris Hilton, Howie Mandel, Giovanni Ribisi, Juliette Lewis and Michael Rapaport, among others. "I'm kind of surprised I haven't done this show already," Green said. "I've known 90 per cent of the people involved for a really long time."

The show even tried to get Britney Spears to play a stripper before her How I Met Your Mother guest spots, but Earl creator Greg Garcia says they're not interested any more. "Now she's been used, so no thanks!" There's got to be something wrong in a world where Britney can't even get a job playing a stripper. It's like an M. Night Shyamalan movie where you forget someone's name just before they cease to exist. Or at least that's what I'm hoping.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 6/12/08	265	353	2	TVO	Escape: Because Accident		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		P.O.W.		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Last Comic Standing (N)			Swingtown (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Who Do-Think	NHL Awards			Laughs	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Biography "Anthony Hopkins"		Supernatural "Sin City"		Battlestar Galactica		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy! (N)	Million Dollar Password		So You Think You Can Dance		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		To Be Announced		Fear Itself "Spooked"		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Visages	Au pays des boucanières		Les Amants ★★ (1958, Drame) Jeanne Moreau, Alain Cuny.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	The Hired Heart (1997, Drama) Penelope Ann Miller.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Million Dollar Password		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Swingtown (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Last Comic Standing (N)			Fear Itself "Spooked"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Jimmy Kimmel	NBA Count	NBA Basketball Finals Game 4 -- Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers.				
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	My Best Friend's Wedding ★★★ (1997, Romance-Comedy)				Medium "1-900-LUCKY"		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Great Performances at the Met "Macbeth"					Classical Dest	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Cure" (HDTV)		Supernatural "Sin City"		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (PA Part 1 of 2)		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Asia Squawk Box		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Billiards: U.S. Open Nine-Ball		Soccer UEFA Euro 2008 -- Croatia vs. Germany.				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Golf U.S. Open Championship -- First Round.				NBA Basketball Finals Game 4 -- Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers.				
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Everest: Man	Jet Set	Mark Williams' Big Bangs		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Monster Jam (N)		Pinks -- All Out		Low Life	Low Life	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Mask ★★★ (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey.		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Wasted	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM	Video on Trial	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			Gone Wild	MuchTopTens		Totally Untrue
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (N)		The First 48
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Sant'Antonio di Padova (2002, Drama) Daniele Liotti.				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Heart: Live at the Orpheum Theater (N)				Popaganda		Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) CMT's Ultimate		Beyond Chance		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis (HDTV)		Intelligence (DVS)		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	The Shield		House
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	Lives-Stories	The Russia House ★★★ (1990, Drama) Sean Connery, Michelle Pfeiffer.					Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser Australia		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS		Ireland's Nazis		Daring to Die		NCIS		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Holmes on Homes		Disaster DIY	The Big Flip	Handyman Superstar		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Heartbreakers ★★ (2001, Comedy) Sigourney Weaver, Ray Liotta.					Frasier	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	Black Carpet	Thank-Mama	Holiday Heart ★★★ (2000, Drama) Ving Rhames.				The Boot
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Night Stalker "Into Night"		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Screen	Cribs	4REAL	MTV Screen	The Real World		Made "Boxer"		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Inside Hollywood (DVS)		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		May-December	Keeping Up	Robin Hood: Men in Tights ★★ (1993, Comedy)				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Scott Baio, 45	Scott Baio, 45	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Le Kid en kimono ★★ (1958, Comédie)			Héros "Le Couronnement"		Le TVA 22 heures (SC)		Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	Dominique Poirier en direct		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing "Han"		Another Woman (1994, Romance) Justine Bateman.				Traders "Family Legacy"		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) Urban Justice (2007) Steven Seagal.				Eagle vs. Shark ★★ (2007, Comedy) Loren Horsley.				One Night
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) 3:10 to Yuma ★★★ (1957, Western) Van Heflin.				The Godfather ★★★★ (1972, Drama) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino.				

critics' corner

Hope & Faith
Hope and Faith's (Kelly Ripa, Faith Ford) father is portrayed by veteran actor Robert Wagner in "Phone Home for the Holidays." Known for playing the field socially, and usually with much-younger women, Dad surprises his daughters by bringing an age-appropriate girlfriend (guest star Lynda Carter) with him for Thanksgiving. The sisters are even more surprised when the new flame confesses a secret. 9:30 PM on CMT

3:10 to Yuma
Yes, the Christian Bale-Russell Crowe version was a remake. But don't lose any sleep over it as this 1957 original is great. Glenn Ford stars as outlaw Ben Wade, who is secretly being transported by rancher Dan Evans (Van Heflin) to a train that will take him to court in Yuma. But Evans also has to contend with Wade's roaming gang. Felicia Farr, Leora Dana and Ford Rainey also star. 6 AM on PIX

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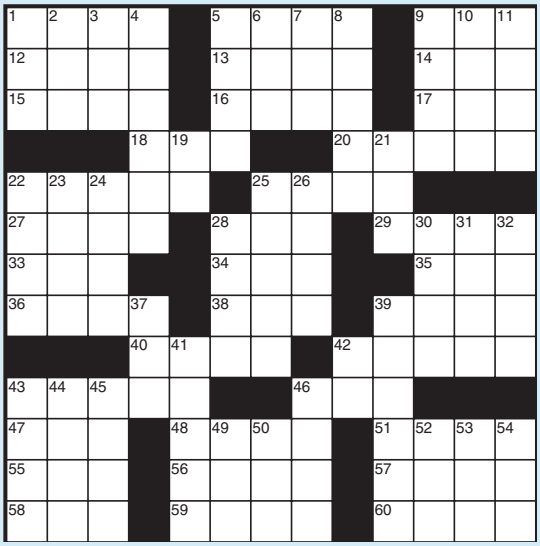

down

1 Sapporo sash
2 Family members
3 Trotted
4 Promise
5 Furnace duct
6 Rifle range command
7 Flatfoot
8 Happen next
9 Falling-out
10 Ranch measure
11 Mellow fruit
19 Wyo. neighbor
21 Countdown number
22 What red means
23 Earring part
24 Lyric poems
25 Amps' cousins
26 Pitch-dark
28 Quip
30 Trucker's haul
31 Freeway strip
32 Miles away
37 Repeatedly
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41 Moving around
42 Charleston's st.
43 Ticket price
44 Beethoven piece
45 Earns as profit
46 Fjord city
49 Orange or stock ending
50 Prevailed
52 Gold, in Peru
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54 Summer in Quebec

across

1 Cajun veggie
5 Turn toward
9 Hip-hop music
12 Dressmaker's cut
13 Veldt stalker
14 Hard water?
15 Quaint hotels
16 Safe callers
17 Monastery dweller
18 Wear and tear
20 Make a sound
22 Fencing weapon
25 Regard
27 Waterfront event
28 Bon Jovi of rock
29 Earthen pot
33 Crude metal
34 Wapiti
35 Bumbler
36 Tijuana dollar
38 Shoat's home
39 Elcar or Carvey
40 Blubber and suet
42 More spacious
43 Word processor choices
46 Livy's eggs
47 Fossey friend
48 Shooting marbles
51 Rx amount
55 Wheel track
56 Archeologist's find
57 Latin I verb
58 Slalom run
59 Vegas rival
60 Tunnel maker

previous answer

W	O	R	E		C	A	S	E		M	A	R
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HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
A forced move is now acceptable. Don't jump to conclusions, and avoid meddling. Uncertainty crops up concerning a romantic fantasy.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
A bubbly female sees an ironic twist of fate. A convenient illness brings release from anxiety. Stock markets are behaving oddly.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Someone you care for will guide you in love. Gratitude will improve your chance of success. You'll have to buff up your skills.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
A weary man faces a series of misfortunes. A pet will give you comfort. A lack of attention will stand out.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Pride raises its inflamed head. A woman finally gets what she paid for. Being too serious may cause some funny teasing.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Keep in touch with someone who's in the wrong. Take a break from your routine. A senior misses your contribution.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
A fearless friend will perform tricks. A disgusted woman is outrageous, but don't say so. A punitive person influences a conscience.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
A woman wants to talk about having fun. Don't battle against a man's generosity. Making an effort will let you stash extra money.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
A blonde's novel approach changes responses. Nutrition assumes greater importance. Comments are made about an accuser.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Keep a tight grip on your spending. There's a failure to connect with a loved one. Confusion wastes time and causes despair.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Wacky reactions will get stale fast. A change of location will benefit you. A strange voice is heard in an unusual place.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Ask a few questions about fun-filled activities. Noise causes some harsh words. Don't hurt a timid person's earnest heart.

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			6	8			2	7
5	4			7	3			9
	2				6		7	
	1	5				8	9	
	3		8				5	
9			7	1			4	3
4	6			2	9			

instructions

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

3	2	4	8	9	5	1	7	6
8	7	1	3	4	6	9	2	5
6	5	9	2	7	1	4	3	8
9	3	6	1	5	7	2	8	4
7	4	2	9	6	8	3	5	1
1	8	5	4	3	2	6	9	7
2	9	7	6	8	4	5	1	3
5	6	3	7	1	9	8	4	2
4	1	8	5	2	3	7	6	9

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Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly cloudy. 21°	Variable. 17°	60% Thunder-storms. 28°/ 20°	40% Showers. 24°/ 14°	Partly cloudy. 24°/ 15°

Temperature Normals
High: 23.5°
Low: 11.8°

Records
High: 32.2°/1949
Low: 2.7°/1980

Sunrise: 5:36 a.m.
Sunset: 9:00 p.m.
Moonset: 1:56 a.m.
Moonrise: 3:31 p.m.

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celebritybuzz

Wedding's off: Report

Jamie Lynn Spears' baby joy may have turned sour because her wedding to Casey Aldridge is off, star-magazine.com reports.

The pregnant teenager has called off her wedding to the father of her baby.

Ever since the Zoey 101 star announced she's pregnant, her mom, Lynne Spears, has reportedly been pushing her to marry Aldridge.

While it seems like Jamie Lynn has been trying her best to do the right thing, insiders have told Star that the tension between the couple has become so intense that it's doubtful they will ever exchange vows.

"Jamie Lynn and Casey have been fighting non-stop about everything, from what to name the baby to what to eat for dinner," a source told Star. "And now she's called off their wedding plans."

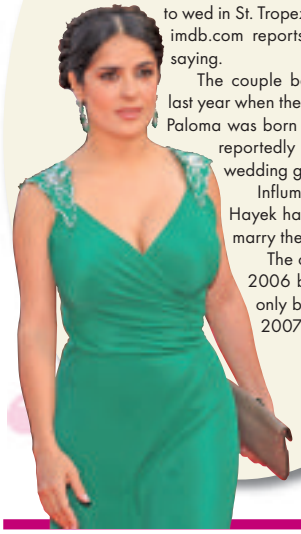
Despite reports the couple bought a house near Jamie Lynn's hometown of Kentwood, La., 17-year-old Jamie Lynn has reportedly moved back into the Spears' family estate – and her dad, Jamie Spears, has flown from pop star sister Britney's side in Los Angeles to be there for his younger daughter.

"They've been busy decorating the baby nursery," an insider revealed.

Aldridge, 19, is "in and out," the second insider says of the current status of the couple's relationship.

Metro News Services

Salma may wed this summer



Actress Salma Hayek and her businessman fiancé Francois-Henri Pinault are planning to wed in St. Tropez later this summer, imdb.com reports French media as saying.

The couple became new parents last year when their daughter Valentina Paloma was born and now Hayek has reportedly started looking for a wedding gown.

Influmedia.com reports Hayek has happily agreed to marry the millionaire.

The couple met in April 2006 but their romance only became public in 2007.

Metro News Services

Getty Images photos

Mark drops 'wife' word

Actor Mark Wahlberg and model Rhea Durham have been together for years – and are parents to daughter Ella, four, and son Michael, two, People.com reports.

Now, as the couple expects baby No. 3, are they ready to walk down the aisle?

They haven't announced an engagement, but Wahlberg did call Durham his "future wife" recently at the New York premiere of his new film, The Happening, when discussing his 37th birthday on June 5.

"I had a beautiful day with my kids and my future wife," he said. "We went to brunch."

As for the impending arrival, Wahlberg revealed they're having a son, and that Durham, 29, is due in September. "We're thrilled!"

Metro News Services

Madonna denies divorce

Pop star Madonna is not divorcing her husband, filmmaker Guy Ritchie, the New York Daily News reports her rep as having said.

A blog claimed earlier this week that Madonna had hired top matrimonial lawyer Nicholas Mostyn, the attorney who represented former Beatle Paul McCartney in his divorce from Heather Mills.

Madonna's spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, said otherwise.

"All's good. They're very happy," Rosenberg said.

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Heidi wants to expand family

Heidi Klum wants more children, femalefirst.co.uk.

The former Victoria's Secret supermodel – who has two children, two-year-old Henry and one-year-old Johan, with her husband, singer Seal, and a four-year-old daughter Leni from a previous relationship – has no intention of finishing her family.

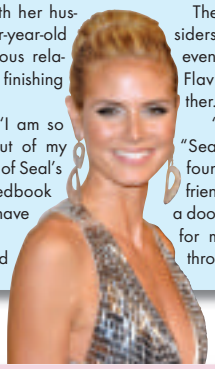
"So many people say, 'I am so done.' That hasn't come out of my mouth, and it hasn't come out of Seal's mouth, either," Klum told Redbook magazine. "I feel like we still have one coming."

Klum recently revealed she is "addicted" to having children.

"I do miss being pregnant. Children are very addictive. Once they start growing up, you miss when they were little," she added.

The 34-year-old also said she considers Seal to be Leni's real father, even though Formula One team boss Flavio Briatore is her biological father.

"Seal is Leni's father," Klum said. "Seal and I feel very lucky that we found each other. He's my best friend. He would never go in through a door first. He always opens the door for me and steps back so I walk through." Metro News Services



Cameron steps out with model

Cameron Diaz's romance with Paul Sculfor may be getting serious, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who was seen flirting with the model over dinner earlier this month, enjoyed a second romantic date with Sculfor in Hollywood this week.

The pair were spotted at the exclusive Chateau Marmont hotel and Diaz appeared to be smitten with Sculfor, actress Jennifer Aniston's ex-boyfriend.

"Cameron and Paul were sitting on the patio, leaning in toward each other," a source said. "Her body language looked like she was really comfortable with him. She looked genuinely like a girl falling in love."

While Diaz has previously remained coy about her private life, onlookers say she was happy to flaunt her new romance.

"She wasn't really hiding him," the source added.

Although Diaz seems to have fallen head over heels for Sculfor, friends claim she still has feelings for ex-lover Justin Timberlake and has turned to him for support since the sudden death of her father Emilio in April.

Metro News Services

Getty Images photos

Alanis opens up about heartache

Alanis Morissette is eager to avoid another love breakup – because splits hit her too hard, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer-songwriter admits she was devastated when her engagement to actor Ryan Reynolds ended last year, and it took her months to recover.

She reportedly fears she wouldn't be able to handle another breakup of that magnitude.

"I was a full-blown love addict, so it was like, 'I can't keep doing this, my body can't take it,'" Morissette told the Los Angeles Times newspaper. "Breakups are a horrible thing for almost everybody I know. For someone who is a love addict, it's debilitating."

But Morissette is confident her split from Reynolds was her personal rock bottom.

"I've been on a constant journey toward finally surrendering and hitting the rock bottom that I've been avoiding my whole life," she added. "So this was a huge, critical juncture for me. Everything broke, and it was an amazing and horrifying time." Metro News Services

Hayden's new single to be out in August

Hayden Panettiere is set to release her debut single in August, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Heroes actress will release Wake Up Call as a download-only track.

Panettiere has reportedly been working on her music career long before she found fame playing cheerleading-superhero Clare on the hit show.

According to Hollywood Records' Ken Bunt, she has been recording for two years.

"We had to work within her crazy schedule to determine what direction she wants to go with her music," Bunt told Billboard. "Wake Up Call is a reggae-flavoured pop song that was written by Andreas 'Quiz' Romdhane and Josef Larossi, who have previously written tracks for Geri Halliwell, Diana Ross, Il Divo and Westlife."

Metro News Services

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